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THE FRENCH PREPARATIONS.

Of the same intermittent character as an American difficulty, is what we may call a French panic. The attack comes on periodically, and sets us all talking about our defences, and then it disappears again before other interesting subjects. What is queer about it, too, is that it disappears, not because anything has been satisfactorily arranged in consequence of its existence, but simply as a popular tune disappears, because everybody has got tired of it. In fact, there is considerable likeness between our newspaper organs and the common organs of the streets. Certain melodies are all the rage; the boys whistle them; "Punch" writes parodies to them; and, presto! they vanish and are succeeded by others. As it is with foreign, so it is with home subjects. Once every few years we suddenly remember that the working classes are not so well off as they ought to be. Up comes the condition of England question, and is talked of everywhere for a month. No great or permanent change is effected, and the subject drops; what real good that there is done being done in silence meanwhile by charitable people, good employers and landlords, parsons, and missionaries. The French cry is now beginning to have a "wolf" character, and if we persist in making a mere cry of it, such it is likely to be, with serious consequences in the distance. Let us see if we cannot look quietly at it; ascertain whether there is more reason for it now than there was some time since; and settle what permanent results ought to come of the agitation.

We strongly suspect that the attempt to raise a present panic has somewhat of a political character, and smacks of the social influences brought to bear on that humorous apparition which the "Saturday Review" calls the "Thunderer in pumps." The French Government has been paying great attention to its navy. That is certain, and we shall handle the point further presently. But, after all, this attention is quite as much a tradition from the Orleans dynasty as it is Napoleonic. Have our

readers ever seen the essay on the French Mediterranean squadron which the Prince de Joinville contributed to the "Revue des Deux Mondes," a few years since? There they will find an account of the pains taken, years back, to improve the French fleet; of the eagerness of the French navy, years back, to establish a "tradition" of the superiority of the French to the English fleet in the Mediterranean in '39 and '40. Let them compare with this paper the various works of Sir Charles Napier, and they will soon see how formidable affairs have sometimes been (quite apart from Napoleon's Government) between the two countries. The fact is, that modern France, especially since the days of steamers, has been making rapid strides in preparation for naval war. Napoleon is carrying out the system; but he carried it out equally when Palmerston was in power, and we know no great overt act that he has performed towards an invasion within the last few months. We cannot help his having a railway to Cherbourg. We have long had railways to every great port in the kingdom. And to keep on taunting him with the imputation of the basest secret treachery, is scarcely generous while we call him our ally. The generous plan is—not, of course, to lie supine, and pretend ignorance of the general advance of France in naval strength—but, while keeping up our own force at a prudent degree of strength, to assume that he means no mischief till he takes steps towards it. When old Dundonald, in South America, saw a Government which affected to suspect his intentions, go on ostentatiously making preparations, he sent in a message to say that he did not intend to seize the frigate so-and-so, but that, if ever he did, he would do it in the face of day in spite of them. We need not say any such thing; but we can make our Channel squadron what it ought to be, without insult or undue display; and this is the present policy of the Government. The policy of Palmerston—that is, of the "Times"—is to produce a "demonstration" which might cause the rupture it only assumed

to be probable. There will be real demonstration (as Napoleon well knows), if ever he ventures on a positively minacious act.

We have never been among his flatterers; but if he was worth trusting when we wanted to fight Russia, he is worthy of some trust now. It is a low mind that incurs obligations and throws off all memory of them next day.

We have said so often that the best interests of Europe demand peace, that we are almost ashamed to repeat the commonplace. There is no analogy between the aspect of France towards other countries now, and that which she presented at the time of Louis the Sixteenth's execution. Her neighbours were then in a military routine state, quite unfit to resist a war which was based on such a sudden frenzy of European passion as had not been known since the Crusades. The French had everywhere sympathisers with their revolution, and pedants to oppose their armies—such favourable conditions within and without as they can lay no claim to now. If they fight now, it will be a mere war of the old school—one ambitious dynasty against another. Austria, Prussia, Russia, are far readier to meet France than they were, and whichever she encountered, the others would soon join against her. It would only be the last kick of Bonapartism, not as a system of thought, but as a system of force, in which last capacity it is only an intrusive hostile element in Europe. If it means anything more than the triumph of a family, it must mean co-operation with the present want of the world—that is, *orderly progression*. By this phrase, we mean the carrying into effect of those improvements of the popular condition which science makes possible—improvements to which war is now only an obstacle. The necessity of war, historically, is too plain; but it is only a means, and its gradual discontinuance is as clear a requirement of the world as ever its prevalence was. We know that the very *ennui* of civilisation makes its existence tempting; but this is too vulgar and superficial a temptation to impose on a thinking intellect.



ENTRANCE TO ASTON PARK.

The more complex an organisation is, the greater its liability to injury and pain, and the organisation of Europe becomes more complex every year. A war in the heart of Europe now would be as repulsive as a duel or two in the Strand. Thought always conquers in the long run, and force itself would soon be on the side of the enemies of force. Napoleon cannot afford to "set his life upon a cast," and would infallibly lose it if he did. We, therefore, are of opinion, that the echo of his preparations need not alarm people, to the extent to which some writers (quite cool themselves, no doubt) would like them to be alarmed.

Of course, this reflection does not involve any neglect of what due material strength England ought to possess. Even if war were to become obsolete, so far as that Europe should be at peace for centuries, it is probable that armies and navies would survive. Private men have given up fighting, or learning to fight; but no man looks on it as an impossibility that he may some day have to defend himself with poker or stick. Man is an animal that only becomes reasonable by slow degrees; and there is no knowing what, when his passions come into play, he may do. Thinking people will therefore provide for the contingencies which they dislike; and though we do not think war with France desirable or probable, we still insist on a Channel fleet. It is our happy position to be in a better way of defence than most nations, and for this, thanks, in the first instance, to the sea. We admit, indeed, that steam has so far increased our danger: as it has—1st, made pure seamanship less important; 2nd, given our enemies a greater choice of time and place; and 3rd, shortened the time itself in which we can be threatened. But, on the other hand, we are as able to employ steamers as our neighbours; the partial superseding of seamanship has enabled us more freely to employ landmen afloat; and though machinery modifies the relation of men to each other, it does not destroy the great moral distinctions between man and man. In short, we hold that it is sufficient for us to be assured that there is a possibility of danger, against which it becomes us to provide; but that a panic just now would be highly undignified as well as foolish, and that the irritating language natural to panic would be equally improper and absurd. We are not so despondent about the country as to suppose that one or two elderly Whig gentlemen are absolutely necessary to the safety of our hearths and altars; and without getting up a political *deformum tremens* to please them, we are confident of our general ability "to keep"—as Admiral Blake expressed it two centuries since—"to keep foreigners from fooling us."

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

GENERAL ESPINASSE, Minister of the Interior, has resigned. M. Delangle, Senator and President of the Imperial Court, is appointed in his place. The decree appointing M. Delangle Minister does not contain the words "and Minister of Public Safety." General Espinasse is to have a seat in the Senate.

The "Moniteur" has an article on British fears of French faith. It says:—"About three months since the English journals pretended that the French Government was preparing extraordinary armaments. The 'Moniteur' contradicted the fact; the same assertions are now being renewed; we repeat our contradiction. The land and sea forces, settled a year ago for the budget of 1858, have not been increased." It has been remarked that this is, in reality, no answer at all to the allegations made in England. It only says that the land and sea forces, which were settled for the year by the budget of 1858, have not been augmented. That is not the question. A French budget is a very elastic thing. Few people understand it in France, and nobody does elsewhere. Because certain military supplies were voted a year ago without exciting the attention of foreign nations, that is no reason why they should be blind to the real object of the vote now that the result strikes their senses. It is notorious that the Mediterranean squadron has recently been augmented from eight to fourteen vessels, that 40,000 extra recruits were called out this spring, and that immense armaments—far beyond what the defences of the country require—are going on, and have long been going on, not only at Cherbourg, but in every military port of the empire.

There is a rumour that Prince Napoleon contemplates backing out of the proposed governorship of Algeria. He is said to have insisted on introducing free trade into the colony, which the Imperial Government does not think it expedient to adopt.

Though the conferences are conducted with great secrecy, it has leaked out that the union of the Principalities has been formally rejected by four votes to three, England, Austria, Turkey, and Prussia having voted against, and France, Russia, and Sardinia, for it. It is further affirmed that, against a violent opposition on the part of Austria, it has been decided that two representative assemblies shall be permanently established in the Principalities.

BELGIUM.

The fortification of Antwerp, with an increased military establishment, is projected. This step is opposed by the "members of the right," on the ground that the project was anti-French, and suggested by Germany and England, and that it would be burdensome, and that if there was really any danger, the fortifications could not be made in time to avert it.

SPAIN.

The Queen, encouraged by the enthusiasm with which she was received during her late excursion to the Mediterranean, wishes to see if her reception will be as cordial in the North; and accordingly projects a visit to the Asturias.

SWITZERLAND.

The government of Geneva communicated to the Federal Council a protest of the Grand Council against the expulsion of political refugees, demanding that no such expulsion shall take place. The Federal Council replies that it will wait for the decision of the Federal Assembly, and that in the meanwhile the exiled refugees may remain at Geneva.

PRUSSIA.

A LETTER from Berlin says:—"The public has learnt with great satisfaction that the ministry has at length decided on increasing the Prussian navy; the Cabinet will propose to the Chambers to raise the navy budget from 710,000 thalers, the present allowance, to 1,500,000 thalers, or even 2,000,000."

The King was to go to Bavaria in a few days.

ITALY.

The Piedmontese Chamber has unseated various newly-elected members, on the plea that the clergy had canvassed in their favour, and had described their adversaries, who had voted for the confiscation of monastic property, as excommunicated persons, which, in fact, a special bull of the Pope has made them.

The electric cable between the citadel of Messina and the new fort of Reggio was successfully sunk on the 4th of this month.

The "Avviso Alessandrino" states that the fortifications of Alessandria will require upwards of 900 guns. It adds that about 500 of these are already cast.

TURKEY AND THE EAST.

We gather from the Constantinopolitan news that Fuad Pacha has handed in a note of the Sultan to the Paris Conference, in which

Turkey consents to recognise the *status quo* from before 1856, with regard to Montenegro, but persists for the rest in abiding by the declarations she made at the first Congress, and which involve the claim of suzerainty. New troops have been despatched from Constantinople for the Herzegovina.

The Hungarian General Kmeti, who shared with Sir W. Williams the honours and dangers of the siege of Kars, is put at the head of the Turkish army acting against Montenegro.

The insurrection in Candia has assumed grave proportions. We learn that the numbers of the insurgents had increased, and the Governor, Vely Pacha, had recommended all the Turkish inhabitants in the island (about a third of the population), to repair to fortified places. Reinforcements had arrived for Vely Pacha, who, before ordering these troops to act, had summoned the insurgents to lay down their arms, giving them an assurance that he would examine into their grievances, and remedy them if possible. On their side, the malcontents signed a petition to the Porte, and sent a copy of it to the consuls of France, Austria, Russia, the United States, and Greece, praying for the recall of the Governor, and accusing him "of calling for imposts which were not due, of having profaned their churches, and of having pursued, since his arrival a system of vexations which was insupportable." To the summons to lay down their arms, the insurgents replied that they would not decide on any step until they learned from Constantinople how their petition had been received. A great number of Christian families were emigrating to the other islands.

A letter from Constantinople, in the "Hamburg News," says—"A difference has arisen between the Russian Embassy and the Grand Vizier, on account of insults offered by some Turkish scholars to the first dragoman of the Russian Embassy on the last day of the Bairam. M. de Boutenoff went in person to Ali Pacha, who replied evasively. Three of the Turkish Ministers went afterwards to explain matters to the Russian Ambassador, but they were not received."

AMERICA.

The alleged outrages by British cruisers fully occupies public attention in America, and for some days formed the subject of debate in the United States Senate. It is stated that Lord Napier has written to the admiral commanding the squadron on the North American station, suggesting a discontinuance of the search until such time as the wishes of the English Government should be known. The war steamers *Waterwitch*, *Arctic*, and *Wabash* have lately left for the Gulf, and great activity prevails in the navy department. A despatch from Washington states:—"It is generally believed here that the *Colorado* and *Fulton* (war-steamers) have orders to capture the *Styx* (an offending Britisher) should one of them meet her."

There is every reason to believe that the stories of the outraged American captain are grossly exaggerated, and in some instances, altogether false. One Yankee captain has declared his belief that two-thirds of these stories "are made out of whole cloth;" and in two cases where the captains report having been fired at, the crew knew nothing about it.

Resolutions authorising the President to take measures to secure redress from Paraguay, for firing into the United States ship *Waterwitch*, have passed both Houses of Congress. This is virtually a declaration of war against Paraguay.

A fearful tornado had passed over the village of Ellison, Monmouth county, Illinois. Every house in the place was blown down; fifteen persons were killed, and several dangerously wounded.

More difficulties in Kansas are reported, and it was supposed the militia would have to be called out to restore order in some localities.

The reported peaceful arrangement of the Mormon difficulty seems to be a delusion. News from Utah to May 6th, says that the Mormons had expelled the newly-appointed Governor Cumming from their settlement, and determined to resist the troops to the last.

CHINA.

The fall of Canton (says the "Overland Friend of China,") produced but little perceptible change in the attitude and bearing of the Chinese imperial government. A despatch from Peking was received at Shanghai directing the four foreign plenipotentiaries to return to Canton to meet the new imperial commissioner, the recently appointed Viceroy of the two Kuang provinces. Thereupon Lord Elgin immediately determined on advancing in the direction of Peking, and embarked in H.M. steam-ship *Furious* at daylight on Saturday, the 10th of April. The movement was somewhat delayed by the non-arrival of the British admiral and the gunboats. Lord Elgin's emphatic declaration, in reply to the address of the Shanghai mercantile community, leaves no doubt that he is prepared to follow up his determination of proceeding to the Peiho, and thence to Peking, unless, in the meanwhile, a duly accredited Commissioner from the Chinese Emperor is delegated to meet the foreign ministers.

The Earl of Elgin was preceded a day by the Russian steamer *America*, with the Count Putiatine and suite; and followed on the 11th by the United States' ship *Mississippi*, with Mr. Reed; and on the 14th by his Imperial Majesty's steamer *Audacious*, with the Baron Gros. Accompanying the *Furious* are the *Pique*, *Nimrod*, *Slaney*, *Lever*, and *Cormorant*. With the *Audacious* are the *Fusee*, *Primauguet*, and *Phlegeton*; and on the trail of the *Mississippi* are the *Antelope* and *Minnesota*—altogether a squadron of fifteen vessels.

SETTLEMENT OF THE CAGLIARI DISPUTE.

LORD MALMESBURY'S ultimatum has met with a satisfactory reply. The King of Naples will pay the indemnity demanded for the engineers (£3,000), and has given orders immediately to deliver up the *Cagliari* and her crew to Mr. Lyons, her Majesty's Envoy.

The "Times" itself feels bound to give the present advisers of the Crown credit for the spirit with which they demanded redress in this matter: "They might have contented themselves with obtaining satisfaction for our own wrongs, but they recognised that the cause of our allies was inextricably bound up with our own. The King of Naples seems to have felt that the time for 'argumentative refusals' was at an end, and did not even wait until the Sardinian Representative at Naples had made his demand. The *Cagliari* and her crew were released before the final categorical demand from Turin was delivered to the Neapolitan Court. Lord Malmesbury, however, is well entitled to the favourable consideration of the country for the efficient manner in which he has brought this troublesome affair to so satisfactory a conclusion."

ATTACK ON THE BRITISH CONSUL AT BELGRADE.—The attack on the British Consul at Belgrade, which we last week stopped the press to announce, is thus described:—"Mr. Fonblanque was assailed by a Turkish soldier in a regiment of the line, as he was walking on the glacis of the fortress. The ruffian, who had a 'cut and thrust' bayonet in his right hand, and a very large stone in his left, suddenly rushed upon Mr. Fonblanque, and made a cut at his head. The Consul-General managed to parry the blow, but in doing so he received a long and deep wound on his arm. The assassin then made a violent thrust at Mr. Fonblanque, but the latter guarded his body with his hand, which was 'cut through.' Some Servians chancing to appear at this moment, the wounded man lost no time in making towards them. While he was retreating, the soldier threw the stone five times at him, and three times it hit him. The Servians attempted to seize the fellow, who is extremely powerful, but some of his comrades ran up and rescued him. While this totally unprovoked attack was being made on an unarmed man, about 200 Turkish soldiers of different grades were looking on from the walls of the fortress. As soon as Mr. Fonblanque had reached his home, the Pacha in command of the fortress sent to say that he was extremely sorry for what had happened, and had put the soldier in prison. We now hear that on the morning of the 11th a party of 1500 Nizam soldiers or Bashibazouks attacked the English consul's house, from which, however, they were repulsed by some Servian guards."

SAFETY OF THE SPANISH SUBJECT.—A little boy, aged nine, son of a gentleman of Ciudad Real, was lately carried off by a gang of bandits, and a ransom of 200,000 reals was demanded from his parents, to be paid by a given day. The ransom not having been sent, the boy was murdered, and his dead body was thrown into a well, at a few hundred yards from the walls of the town.

THE INDIAN REVOLT.

THE following telegrams, received at the East India House, contain the latest and fullest intelligence from India:—

OUDE.

"There has been no event of importance in Oude. There have been no disturbances, and a great portion of the province appears to be settling down. The Goorkhas have reached Fyzabad, and on the 6th half of them had crossed the Gogra; they have met with no opposition on their way."

BENARES DIVISION.

"The Jounpore and Azimghur districts are reported quiet. At Belwah, in the Goruckpore district, there is still a collection of rebels, and in consequence of a movement by the forces under the rebel Nasim Mahomet Hussein and others, which threatened to interrupt the communication with Goruckpore, Colonel Rowcroft retired to Gunje. He has since been reinforced by the head-quarters wing of H.M. 15th Light Infantry, with two guns."

ALLAHABAD DIVISION.

"General Whitlock still at Banda, where he awaits the arrival of Brigadier McDuff's columns. On the 11th—a band of rebels from the opposite side of the Jumna surprised the police post and the Tehsildar, established at Lalpore of the Cawnpore district. The Tehsildar was wounded. One of our men was killed, and some treasure was lost."

AGRA DIVISION.

"There is nothing of importance to communicate from this division. All is quiet except at Etawah and Etah, and there the rebels have been defeated in several small skirmishes, losing two of their leaders, and have become less troublesome."

MERUT DIVISION.

"This division remains perfectly tranquil."

ROHILCUND DIVISION.

"On May 9, Brigadier Jones relieved the garrison at Shahjehanpore, after defeating the Moulvie. The Bignour district is said to be perfectly tranquil, and our authority has been thoroughly re-established in it. As reported in the last message, the city of Moradabad was re-occupied on the 26th ult. (April) by the Roorkee column, which has since reached Bareilly, as will be further noticed below. Confidence has been restored throughout the district of Moradabad, and the inhabitants of the city, who had fled, are returning in great numbers."

BUDAON DISTRICT.

"The force under Brigadier Penny, after crossing the Ganges, marched on Kukrala, ten miles from Budaon. The General and his staff were in advance, and came upon a body of horse, which they at first took to be a portion of the baggage-guard, which had marched by a more direct route on the flank of the column. The General rode towards it, and when at thirty yards' distance, four guns opened with grape on the party. General Penny shortly after was missed, and the command devolved on Colonel Jones, H.M. 6th Carabineers. Our troops quietly came up, and the action ended in the total defeat of the enemy, one gun and two limbers being captured. It is not known when Gen. Penny was wounded, but his body was recovered, after the action, close to Kukrala. It appeared that his bridle arm had been broken by a musket ball, and his horse had then taken fright, and carried him close to the town, where the rebels rushed upon him and cut him up with their swords. The troops which had composed Brigadier Penny's column marched, after the action at Kukrala across Rohilcund to their own risk (?), and joined the force of the Commander-in-Chief on the 3rd instant (May). Shahjehanpore was occupied without opposition on the 1st of May by the Commander-in-Chief, who had joined Walpole's column. The next day, his Excellency, leaving a small garrison at Shahjehanpore, marched on Bareilly. On the 3rd of May, a large body of rebels, headed by the fanatic Moulvie of Lucknow, came down from Mohundie in Oude, cut up a picket of horse, plundered the city, massacring many of the inhabitants, and compelling the garrison to take shelter in the intrenchment round the wall. Our troops are believed to have a supply of provisions, and will, in all probability, hold their own against the rebels, who are closely blockading them, until relief is afforded. Brigadier-General Jones, by order of the Commander-in-Chief, marched with a strong force towards Shahjehanpore on the 8th instant (May); he is expected to arrive there. Bareilly was attacked on the 6th by the columns under the Commander-in-Chief and Brigadier-General Jones. The rebels were driven into the city with the loss of several guns. The city was entirely occupied by our forces on the 7th."

ALLYGHUR.

"A rebel force has crossed the Ganges and entered the Allyghur districts."

CENTRAL INDIA AND RAJPOOTANA.

"Sir Hugh Rose has defeated the rebels at Koonch, killing 400 or 500 men. The remnant of the enemy will, it is said, make a stand near Calpee. At the requisition of Sir Hugh Rose, who was apprehensive that Jhansi and his rear might be threatened, General Roberts has despatched a field brigade, consisting of one regiment Europeans, one regiment Native Infantry, one wing 8th Hussars, and squadron 1st Lancers, and one troop Horse Artillery, which will operate towards Gochnah. General Roberts, with the rest of his force, has marched towards Neemuch. The Rancee of Jhansi and Tantia Topee are at Calpee. The Nawab of Banda has joined them with a strong force. The road leading to Calpee has been destroyed, in order to prevent the passage of guns, and a bridge has been constructed to escape across the Jumna. A court of inquiry has been held on the Maharajah of Kotah, to investigate his conduct, in connection with the murder of the late political agent, Major Burton. The proceedings have been completed, and submitted to Government. No British force has been left at Kotah, nor has any political agent remained there. Brigadier Smith's column from Kotah took the Fort of Parou on May 8. The Rancee of Parou was captured at D.daghar on May 9. Information was received at Goonah, on May 14, that 5,000 rebels had stormed and retaken Chundaree, which had been left by Sir H. Rose in charge of Scindia's troops. The resistance was obstinate. The rebels have also seized Sullupore and Thalbut, and threatened Baghur. The Rancee of Jaloun has surrendered to Sir R. Hamilton."

NAGPORE.

"A zemindar in the Chopda district is in open rebellion, and has murdered two of the telegraph employés. The commissioner has moved out a force against the rebels, and taken necessary precautions."

PUNJAB.

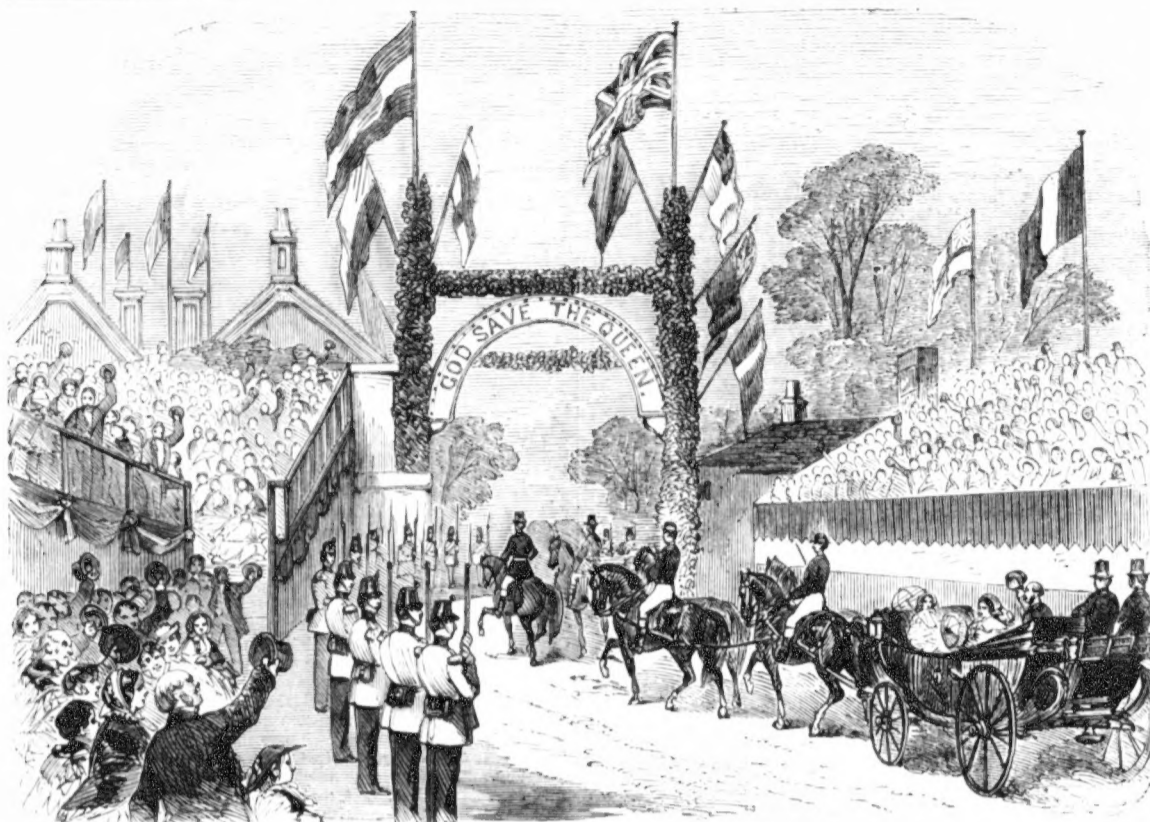
"On the 25th Sir Sydney Cotton destroyed Punniar, in Eu Sufzye, and Chenghe. On the 26th the robber chiefs lost much property. On the night of the 27th and 28th of April Sir Sydney Cotton and Colonel Edwards ascended the Muhabon mountains, on the right bank of the Indus, and destroyed the stronghold of a noted chief. On the 4th, Titana was destroyed by the same force. The Hindoostanee fanatics fought with determination, and were cut to pieces. Our loss, four natives killed and twelve wounded. A conspiracy has been discovered and suppressed in the wing of the 4th Bengal Native Infantry, at Hooshiapoor; six of the conspirators have been hanged. The wing had been sent to Jullundur."

BENGAL—BEHAR.

"Her Majesty's 84th Regiment, with two guns and 100 Sikh cavalry, are at Arrah. Sir E. Lugard marched on Arrah on the 7th, attacked the rebels at Donstapan on May 9th, and drove them before him to Jugdespore, which place he entered on the same day. The enemy, having sustained severe loss, retreated to the southward, and abandoned the two guns they had captured from the Arrah force. Sir E. Lugard entered Jaitpore on May 11, after repulsing an attack of the enemy. On May 12, he formed a junction with Colonel Corfield at Peron; and on May 13, returned, hearing that Major Lightfoot, who had been left at that place, had been attacked by the rebels. Amer Singh, a rebel leader, is reported to have been killed at Jaitpore. The rebels under Ummur Singh, the brother of Koorer Singh, are believed to number from 7,000 to 9,000 men, mostly villagers. Koorer Singh is now believed to be still alive."

THE QUEEN'S VISIT TO WARWICKSHIRE

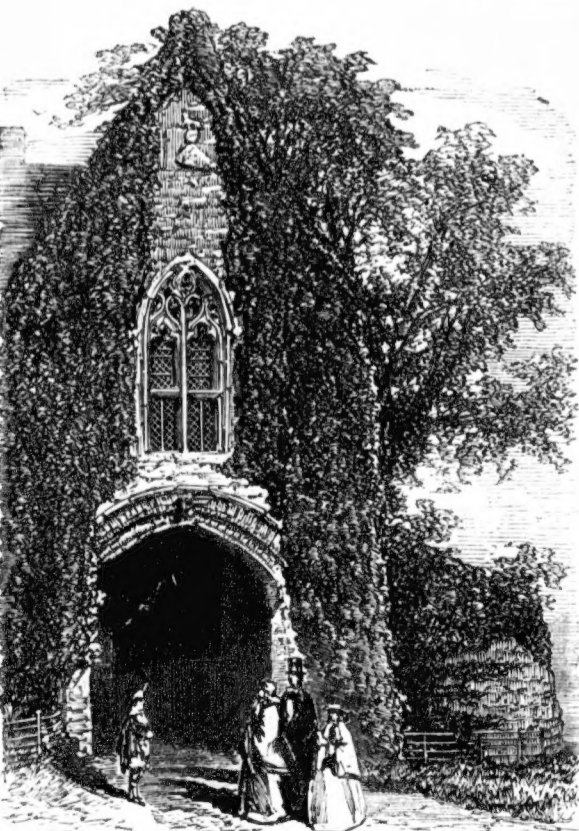
The Abbey itself is an immense pile, forming three sides of a quadrangle, and representing various schools of architecture, from the great designs of the old Cistercians who first inhabited it, and gave such trouble by their roystering to successive kings of England, down to the most modern improvements, in which the comforts of the inmates are more considered than the pictorial effects of the pile. The venerable Wilhelmus, the first abbot who discussed malmsey and warden pie within its sacred precincts in 1159, would have been truly astonished if he could have revisited earth for a few hours yesterday, and seen the preparations which his noble lay successor was making for the reception of her Most Gracious Majesty Victoria the First. The ancient gateway was fairly smothered with greenery and gemmed with rhododendrons; the peasantry stood about in picturesque groups, as they might have done in the time of Wilhelmus; but an incongruous feature was present in the shape of a strong detachment of the metropolitan police.



ARRIVAL OF HER MAJESTY AT COVENTRY.



TRIUMPHAL ARCH AT COVENTRY.



LODGE AT STONELEIGH.



ENTRANCE TO THE PARK, STONELEIGH.

whose small batons were quite as efficient, if not so terrible-looking, as the curial axes of mediæval times. From the ancient gateway an equally ancient corridor, lighted with stained glass, and every window a family portrait, led to a splendid suite of rooms—billiard-room, library, silk drawing-room, velvet drawing-room, and so on to the grand saloon, arranged for the occasion as a banqueting-room, and capable of dining sixty people. On this room much pains had been lavished in preparing it for the royal visit. The ceiling, in alto-relievo, had been newly coloured, the walls newly decorated, and ormolu candelabra, of great magnificence, introduced at intervals. This room has the further attraction of opening in a handsome Italian garden, beyond which flows the tranquil Avon, so full of exultant reminiscence to every lover of English literature. Further than this, a magnificent suite of private apartments, in white and gold, green and silver, and other suitable combinations, were prepared for the royal visitors, magnificent in their general effect, and truly worthy both of the loyal hospitality of the hosts and the illustrious position of the guests.

Here it may be proper to inform our readers that of the original abbey little remains; but of the building erected immediately after the expulsion of the monks, which of course took place in the time of Henry VIII., a considerable portion still exists. The front, which now forms the principal feature of the abbey, was built above a century since, by Edward Lord Leigh. The place had previously passed through many changes. In 1245 it suffered greatly from a fire, and was then restored by Robert de Hockell, the sixteenth abbot. The restoration was completed about 1300; and this abbot also built the gate-house, which is still entire. It is in the Early Decorated style, and leads through a fine and lofty archway to the beautiful lawn in front of the house.

At the dissolution the revenues, valued at £178 2s. 5d., were bestowed upon Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk. The estate afterwards passed into the hands of William Cavendish, Esq., who sold the site of the monastery, and nearly all the lands lying in Stoneleigh, to Sir Thomas Leigh, from whom Lord Leigh descends.

The Leighs have always been famous for their loyalty. Sir Thomas Leigh, the great-grandson of the Sir Thomas who purchased the estate, was a faithful adherent to the unfortunate Charles I., through all his troubles; and was for his loyalty created a baron of the realm, by the title of "Lord Leigh of Stoneley," in the nineteenth year of his reign. His successors held aloof from public affairs for many years; they never attended Parliament, but resided entirely at their magnificent seat in proud seclusion.

When her Majesty arrived at the Abbey—through long-continued avenues of applause, so to speak—there were present to meet her the Duchess of Sutherland, the Marquis and Marchioness of Westminster and Lady Agnes Grosvenor, and Countess Delawarr and Lady Arabella Sackville West, the Earl and Countess of Macclesfield, the Earl of Dalkeith, Dowager Lady Leigh and the Hon. Miss Leigh, Lord and Lady Saye and Sele, Lord and Lady Wenlock, the Hon. C. B. Adderley and Mrs. Adderley, Sir Archibald Islay Campbell, the Hon. E. C. Leigh (in command of the Stoneleigh Yeomanry), Mr. Boughton Leigh (lieutenant of the Stoneleigh Yeomanry Troops).

In the evening the front of the old Abbey and the portico of the mansion-house beyond were splendidly illuminated, and her Majesty was present at a grand banquet. The band of the 2nd Life Guards was stationed in the park, and played at intervals during the evening.

AT BIRMINGHAM.

But great as were the preparations for her Majesty's reception at Coventry and Stoneleigh, for Birmingham was reserved the exhibition of an almost fabulous amount of splendour and preparation for the great occasion. Under the auspices of the Mayor, the town council had voted £3,000 for decorative purposes, and the inhabitants vied with each other in contributing appropriate ornaments to the pageant. For nearly a week little business was thought of but the decorations, and on the morning of the royal visit every house front was covered with banners of the gayest colours, tasteful galleries, or appropriate devices. Every trade was of course represented by appropriate emblems on such an occasion, but the staple trade of the town had, at a cost of £4,000, provided a trophy, the best idea of which can be given by enumerating its warlike details. The arch or trophy erected by the gunmakers consisted of 200 pistols, 400 muskets, 8,000 ramrods, 8,000 bayonets, and 200 lances, besides innumerable military appliances of minor importance. Yet it was hardly expected, perhaps, that to democratic Birmingham—Birmingham of the Reform agitation—Birmingham of the Bull-ring—was reserved the honour of offering to our Sovereign one of the most remarkable and impressive omissions that ever were spontaneously prepared by a loyal and liberal people.

If, however, any captious sceptic had a doubt as to the monarchical tendencies of the English people, any hesitation in believing that their loyalty was a sentiment of love and respect as well as of duty, he should have visited the great iron city on Tuesday morning, and seen the people pouring in in thousands and tens of thousands, in holiday garb, and with radiant countenances, to greet their Sovereign as she passed through the town, and give her that inimitable, unpurchasable cheer which can only emanate from the hearts and lungs of a free, and—let us add—robust people.

A brighter morning has seldom dawned than was this one of her Majesty's visit to the Midland metropolis, when her Majesty arrived from Stoneleigh at twelve. Long before daybreak the streets began to



WARWICK CASTLE, FROM THE AVON.

all; the principal thoroughfares were pretty well crowded at midnight, were afterwards partially clear for an hour or two, and by four o'clock in the morning people were crowding in from all quarters. Birmingham proper contains 260,000 inhabitants, and, with the exception of the sick and the aged, it may be fairly said that they were all in the streets to meet the Queen; and as the surrounding districts could supply at least as many more, and as, moreover, they had been pouring in their contingent for three or four days previous to the royal visit, it will hardly be an exaggeration to put down at half a million the actual numbers who participated in Tuesday's ovation.

For many days previously, and up to the last moment, the work of decoration was going on. From every window there streamed forth the gayest banners; every house-front along the entire line of route for some four miles of streets over which her Majesty was to pass was one vast display of evergreens and flowers. Triumphant arches, splendidly decorated, had been erected at the entrances to most of the streets. The decorations assumed every conceivable device and form, and crowded every available spot.

As we have said, her Majesty arrived at the Birmingham Railway station at about twelve o'clock. The station, which is one of the largest in the kingdom, was elaborately prepared for the royal visit. The platform before which the royal train was to stop was covered with crimson cloth, and decorated with laurels and hothouse plants. Galleries had been erected for the friends of the directors, and these were filled with elegantly-dressed ladies, and as many of the "rougher sex" as were necessary for protection and escort. The guard of honour at the station was supplied by the 22nd of the line, commanded by Captain Monk, and the whole of Queen Street was lined by the same regiment. The cavalry escort consisted of a squadron of the 10th Hussars, General Sir Harry Smith, and Colonels Wilbraham, Chaytor and Gordon, with several noblemen and gentlemen, were present in yeomanry and militia uniforms. At twelve o'clock the bell announced the arrival of the royal train, and immediately afterwards the engine, profusely decorated with evergreens, shot rapidly past the landing-stage. The time for dutiful demonstrations was extremely limited, for the royal carriages immediately drew up, and the Queen, the Prince Consort, and suite, proceeded slowly on their journey to the Town Hall.

As the royal cavalcade turned slowly out of the railway gate, the scene was peculiarly effective and imposing. All the unenclosed portion of Great Queen Street was densely filled by the people of the town; the houses were all decorated with flags and garlands; and within the enclosed space were stationed at intervals detached troops of the 10th Hussars, which, as the royal carriages passed, turned and fell in, and thus completed the brilliant effect of the cortege.

The Town Hall had been carefully prepared for this occasion. At the end nearest the organ gallery, a dais and colossal canopy had been erected; the canopy, handsomely shaped and richly gilt, was bestowed with purple velvet. Upon the dais were placed a chair of state for her Majesty and two smaller chairs, each richly inlaid with gilt and trimmed with ermine-coloured moiré antique. The floor of the hall was covered with a Brussels carpet of green ground, with gold stars and crimson border, like the carpets of the House of Lords. Up the centre of the hall approaching the dais was placed a broad strip of maroon-coloured carpet, velvet-piled; and round three sides were seats covered with crimson cloth, appropriated to ladies. Outside the Hall, another canopy, richly decorated, was placed over the door at which her Majesty was to enter the building. A suite of apartments had been fitted up for her Majesty's reception. The walls of these were hung with pink, over which was covered white figured muslin. The apartments prepared for the Prince Consort were hung with green rep, thrown into panels of gold and crimson lace work. The vestibule through which her Majesty was to pass from the apartment to the Hall was lined with a superb collection of flowers.

As the gay company clustered on the floor of the hall, the *coup d'œil* presented was not only brilliant, but singularly picturesque and beautiful. The glittering uniform of the military, the deputation in full attire, the consuls of various foreign nations in appropriate costume, contrasted well with the robes of the members of the civic body, who had thought fit to wear gowns in accordance with the usage of corporations in olden times. A sprinkling, too, there was of gentlemen in court attire, who had had the honour of previous presentation to her Majesty. The gentlemen privately attired wore full evening dress. The beauty of the scene—the gorgeousness of the canopy beneath which her Majesty was to sit, and upon which the sun glittered through the hall windows with a degree of brilliancy seldom witnessed—was relieved by the quieter costumes of the ladies in the galleries and upon the floor, amongst whom might be witnessed many fair sisters of the Society of Friends.

At half-past twelve the Queen entered the building, having passed along Worcester Street, High Street, Bull Street, Colmore Row, and Ann Street, on her route, receiving the hearty acclamations of the people, who lined the foot pavement and crowded every platform and corridor along the way. Her Majesty remained in her private apartment a few minutes only. The moment she crossed the vestibule and entered the Hall, the organ pealed forth the National Anthem. Her Majesty, who wore a lilac silk dress with a profusion of flounces, a black lace shawl, and a bonnet of white tulle, walked up the Hall, leaning on the arm of the Prince Consort, and, having ascended the dais, took her seat in the chair of state. The Prince was attired in the uniform of a General of Division. On the dais, immediately behind her Majesty, were the Duchess of Atholl, the Duchess of Sutherland, and the Hon. Miss Stopford. The Prince Consort sat on her Majesty's left; next him stood the Marquis of Abercorn, and on her right stood Lord Leigh and the Right Honourable Spencer Walpole.

Her Majesty surveyed the Hall whilst the National Anthem was being sung, which being concluded, the Town Clerk read the following address to her Majesty:—

"Most gracious Sovereign,—We, your Majesty's faithful subjects, the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the borough of Birmingham, in the county of Warwick, humbly offer to your Majesty and your Royal Consort our cordial welcome. From the day of your Majesty's accession to the throne, we have regarded your Royal person with sincere and devoted affection, and we have long looked forward to an opportunity of emulating, with generous zeal, the ardent loyalty of our fellow-subjects in other great cities of your empire. Now that the joyful moment has arrived, we approach the Throne with no common emotion; we feel the liberty and security we enjoy; we appreciate the bright example of your Majesty's virtues; and we humbly thank Almighty God for having blessed us with so good a Queen.

"In the name of the vast community we represent, we humbly beg to convey to your Majesty our cordial thanks for the signal honour which your Majesty has deigned to confer upon the borough of Birmingham, and our heartfelt wishes that your Majesty may long be spared to receive the grateful homage of a loyal and devoted people."

To which the Queen read the following reply in a voice so clear and distinct that the words reached every part of the building:—

"I have received with pleasure your loyal and dutiful address, expressing your sincere and devoted affection to my person and my throne. It is most gratifying to me to have the opportunity of visiting this ancient and enterprising town, the centre of so much of our manufacturing industry; and I trust you may long remain in the full enjoyment of that liberty and security, without which even industry itself must fail to reap its appropriate reward."

"I desire you will convey to the vast community which you represent my sincere thanks for their cordial welcome, assuring them at the same time of the pleasure I have derived from witnessing the great and increasing prosperity of Birmingham and its neighbourhood."

An address was also presented to Prince Albert, to which his Royal Highness replied.

These ceremonials over, the Right Hon. Spencer Walpole quitted the dais, moved to the Mayor, and conveyed to his Worship her Majesty's command for him to advance and kneel. His Worship obeyed; the Queen took from the hand of Mr. Walpole a sword, and giving the Mayor the accolade, commanded him to rise Sir John Ratcliffe. The newly created knight kissed his Sovereign's hand and withdrew.

With the presentation of the aldermen and town council the proceedings at the Town Hall terminated. Her Majesty rose, and, taking the arm of the Prince Consort, proceeded to quit the hall. The instant she left the dais, there burst forth a long-suppressed shout of

greeting and acclamation. There was no mistaking the heartiness of that cheer any more than there was the genuine expression of enthusiastic feeling which shone forth in every countenance. Her Majesty was manifestly much pleased and gratified, and repeatedly bowed her acknowledgments as she passed from the hall to her private apartment, where she remained for a few minutes only before she took her departure for Aston.

THE PROCESSION TO ASTON HALL.

Although the municipal ceremonial may be said to have culminated in the impressive scene of the Town Hall, the value of the royal reception as a popular demonstration could only be ascertained and appreciated by turning out into the crowded streets immediately afterwards, and joining in the almost interminable procession, which slowly wound its way for a distance of upwards of three miles to Aston Hall. The assemblage of people was enormous. The number of triumphal arches, laurel-begirt poles, and fanciful garlands, displayed on every side, was astonishing; and in many cases it could be perceived through the greenery that, with an almost lavish expenditure, the supporting poles were gilt, or in some cases elaborately painted. It would be impossible to do justice to the appearance of New Street as the cortege passed slowly along, with its houses fairly smothered in foliage, their windows crowded with excited faces, garlands drooping everywhere across from house to house, flags of every device and colour swaying to and fro lazily in the sultry air, the sides of the street black with a creeping crowd, and in the centre the royal procession, headed by the Queen's carriages, with their great bay horses, followed closely by the light and graceful Hussars, and behind, the interminable line of private carriages which completed the cavalcade. All these, taken collectively, made up a picture to see which was worth braving as hot a sun as ever marked the hottest period of an English summer. Then there were the peculiarly national features of the day's proceedings. In one gallery the boys of King Edward's School cheered lustily, as boys know how to do under the double excitement of the royal presence and a whole holiday; in another, a closely packed pen of little girls clapped their tiny hands and waved their white handkerchiefs. These latter were clearly children, but they had not been forgotten in the general rejoicing. Then we came to the historical Bull-ring, crowded as of yore, but with its temporary occupants thinking of anything but the "five points." They cheered, as if cheering were the business of their lives, for the Queen, because they were proud and happy that she had come amongst them; for the brave soldiers who followed, because their gallant deeds were fresh in the popular memory; for the worthy mayor, whose exertions had so powerfully contributed to procuring the present enjoyment; for the town council, especially that large and respectable majority who had decked themselves in the freshest purple and miniver in honour of the great occasion; and even some unobtrusive strangers who occupied a carriage not far from the head of the cortege received frequent and almost overpowering demonstrations of welcome.

To describe the other streets through which the procession passed would be little more than monotonous repetition. Bull Street was a grove of coolness, and the other streets were little behind in verdure, but nothing special attracted the notice until on approaching the boundaries of the town the famous gunmakers' trophy drew all eyes to its singular and fanciful design. The heads of the trade mustered strong here, and complacently watched the effect of their handiwork. Here, also, the royal progress was arrested by an incident which deserves especial notice, not only on account of its singular character, but from the extraordinary effect which it produced on all who had the good fortune to be present while it was being enacted. The Sunday School teachers and scholars of the borough, to the almost incredible amount of 47,000, were at this point stationed on each side of the road, in regular military sections, properly commanded by captains, generals, and even marshals. Each section had its musical conductor, armed with a long white wand by way of baton, and assisted by a drummer and two cornets, the first to give the little singers the signal to begin, and the latter to play over the simple music of this wonderful child concert. As her Majesty passed along, each section sang its allotted air with wonderful precision, producing an effect on all who heard it so pleasing, so pervading, so universal, as to leave an abiding impression on the memory. The young, fresh voices, pouring forth their artless notes in melodious profusion on the clear summer air, produced an impression on the listeners which the most gifted choristers of the Opera might in vain attempt to imitate. People were not only delighted, but deeply moved; and as the soft cadences were gradually left behind, every one turned back. Not the least gratifying feature in this unique concert was, that the little choristers came from schools of all religious denominations—Church of England, Dissenters, Roman Catholics, and Jews, all sent in their young contingents, and all sectarian differences were for the moment stilled in this one immense burst of loyal harmony. The royal carriage stopped for a moment while the Queen listened to the hymn, and we understood that the teachers were permitted to approach and present an address.

One more incident arrested the attention as the procession passed up from the railway station to the Town Hall. A singular-looking arch, placed a little further on, told the almost incredible tale that in honour of the Queen's visit even the inexorable toll-bar—that most immutable of English institutions—had been swept away, and that for once a pike-man had cast aside his misanthropy, and might be seen at the road side sitting in a sort of resigned melancholy, and selling gingerbread of loyal device during the enforced interregnum of his unpopular vocation. It should be observed that throughout the entire line from the town to the park we had found the road completely lined on both sides with lofty galleries, and that although admission to these galleries could only be procured at fees varying from one shilling to five, they were all completely filled, so that even for this item alone an enormous money expenditure must have been incurred in honour of the royal visit. As the park-gate was approached it was found that a rustic fair was intended to form part of the day's rejoicings. Large booths for theatrical purposes had been erected, and a very singular effect was produced by the whole *dramatis persone* of some dreadfully deep tragedy standing in front of one of them, and cheering for the Queen with a vivacity which but ill accorded with the sombre characteristics of their costume. At another an undoubted "Acrobat of the Pyrenees" gave the normally ill used children of his horrid posture-making performances a holiday, and held them good-naturedly on his shoulders to see the grand sight instead of rolling them up into balls and throwing them over his head, as no doubt he might be seen doing at a later period of the day. The "Chestnut Avenue" was sparsely lined with a detachment of the 31st Foot, and these few soldiers, with the escort of Hussars and the Warwickshire Yeomanry Cavalry, made up the whole of the military display.

Her Majesty, on alighting at the entrance to the hall, was received by the directors, and at once proceeded to the great drawing-room, where suitable refreshment had been provided, and during the retirement of the royal party, the directors hospitably entertained their friends in another apartment. As soon as this important feature in the programme had been disposed of, the Queen, attended by Sir John Scott and his brother directors, inspected the principal apartments in the ancient manor-house, with all of which her Majesty was understood to express her entire satisfaction. Subsequently, the royal party proceeded to the long gallery, where a sort of little court was formed, the country aristocracy being represented by Lords Ward and Leigh, Lord Alfred Paget, and a selection of the untitled gentry. As soon as the municipal body, headed by the mayor, had entered the gallery and formed a semi-circle at the lower end, her Majesty, accompanied by the Prince Consort, and attended by the Duchess of Atholl and Mr. Walpole, principal Secretary of State, proceeded to an estrade which had been erected for the purpose, and there formally received the directors of the Aston Park Company, the chairman of which, Sir Francis Scott, presented an address, of which the following are the most important passages:—

"We, the undersigned, the Interim Managers of Aston Hall and Park, beg leave to approach your Majesty with the earnest assurance of our devoted loyalty to your Majesty's throne and person, and humbly acknowledge the great honour conferred upon us, and those whom we represent, by your Majesty's auspicious presence to inaugurate Aston Hall and Park.

"In some towns in your Majesty's dominions, public parks have wisely been provided by wealthy corporations; in others by the munificence of philanthropic citizens; here also we are indebted to private liberality for places of recreation for the people; but to Birmingham alone has it been given to secure by her own exertions an ancient park for the physical relaxation, an ancient hall for the mental cultivation, of her variously employed and laborious population. Your Majesty will, we believe, be gratified to learn that Aston Hall and Park have been acquired for the most part by the industry and economy of the people themselves. Of the money required for this purpose a very large proportion has been subscribed by the working classes, a circumstance which we venture to hope will not be without its most salutary and satisfactory to your Majesty.

"It is with feelings of pleasure and gratitude that the Interim Managers record that, although Birmingham is not distinguished for the individual wealth of its citizens, their undertaking has, from the first, been greatly indebted to those members of the richer classes who are happily always ready to aid in every good and noble work; but chiefest among the generous recognitions of the importance of this undertaking, they place the endorsement of your Majesty in thus honouring the inauguration with your most gracious presence.

"The Interim Managers would also express their hope that the preservation of Aston Hall and Park, by the efforts of the artisans of Birmingham, may not be without influence as an example and encouragement to those of other towns."

Her Majesty returned the following gracious reply:—

"I sincerely thank you for your loyal assurances of devoted attachment to my throne and person.

"The improvement of the moral, intellectual, and social condition of my people will always command my earnest attention; and in opening this hall and park to-day, I rejoice to have another opportunity of promoting their comfort and innocent recreation."

After some other formalities, her Majesty proceeded to the open gallery facing the garden, and having passed a moment in pleased contemplation of the cheering crowd below, and the unsurpassed beauty of the landscape that stretched far beyond, formally declared Aston Park to be opened as a place of innocent amusement and cheerful recreation for the people.

So concluded the ceremonies of the day. In the evening, however, a grand banquet was given by Sir John Ratcliffe, Mayor of Birmingham, in the Town Hall. Nearly 300 gentlemen were present, and the galleries were filled with ladies. The health of her Majesty was drunk with the utmost enthusiasm, and Sir John Ratcliffe, by his townsmen, was toasted with every demonstration of gratification at the honour conferred upon him by the Queen. The streets, up to a late hour, were densely crowded, and several portions of the town were illuminated.

THE QUEEN AT WARWICK—THE RETURN.

When the ceremony of opening Aston Park was concluded, her Majesty left Aston by a private station of the North Western Railway adjoining the Park. From thence her Majesty proceeded direct to Kenilworth, where carriages were in attendance to convey the royal party to the Stoneleigh Abbey. Here a large company had the honour to meet her Majesty at dinner. After which Lady Leigh had an evening party.

On Wednesday, at noon, the Queen bade farewell to Stoneleigh, and proceeded by road through Kenilworth to Warwick Castle, where luncheon was prepared for the Royal travellers. From the Castle, her Majesty proceeded through the town to the railway station, returning by the Great Western line to London. In our next number we shall give further details as to the Queen's reception at Warwick, with engravings generally illustrative of the scenes and purposes of her Majesty's visit.

ASTON HALL, AND HOW IT BECAME THE PEOPLE'S PROPERTY.

The Queen is less likely than an elder generation to have grown up with a pleasant picture of Braebridge Hall in her memory; for Washington Irving became acquainted with Aston—which is Braebridge Hall—a few years before her Majesty was born; and "The Sketch-book," by which it was made known to all England and America, saw the light just at the same time with the Princess Victoria. The extreme popularity of the book, and of its successor, "Braebridge Hall," was pretty well over before the present middle-aged generation became readers; but there must ever be a strong charm about a place which has inspired a popular book; and the historical records of Aston Hall are of no mean interest in themselves.

Aston Hall is situated in the midst of a beautiful park, on a gently rising hillock, which commands a fine view of the surrounding country. It is a noble mansion, built in the later Elizabethan style. Mr. Thomas Holte, who built it, was made one of the Ulster Knights by King James the First, and he began, according to the inscription still existing, and legible over the door of the entrance-hall, "to build this house in April in anno Domini 1618, in the sixteenth year of the reign of King James of England, &c., and of Scotland the one-and-fiftieth; and the said Sir Thomas Holte came to dwell in this house in May in anno Domini, 1631, in the seventh year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King Charles; and he did finish this house in April, anno Domini 1635, in the eleventh year of the reign of the said King Charles, Lays Dco." This "house," which Sir Thomas Holte was seventeen years in building, is one of the best specimens of the later Elizabethan mansions now remaining in England. It is built in the usual shape of a letter E, having a central line and two wings. On each side, as an advanced guard, is a small square building, connected with the wings by a wall having an ornamental coping. The chief features of the wings are two large embayed windows to the front, with thin pierced parapets, and the lofty towers, surmounted by closed ogee roofs of a dome-like character. These towers advance considerably into the quadrangle, of which the whole forms three sides, and have their two lower storeys divided by horizontal string-courses or mouldings are carried round the greater portion of the building, and, indeed, form an important feature. Each of the towers has an entrance on the ground floor, consisting of a square panelled door, under a semicircular arch, encircled with a large shell ornament, and flanked by flat shallow fluted pilasters having plain capitals, and high square bases ornamented with sunk panelling. The ornamental carved gables of the wings, combined with various groups of octagonal chimneys, give a picturesque and pleasing appearance to the whole.

Without entering into tedious details about the character of the hall, and its architectural attractions, it will suffice to add that the state-rooms are of noble proportions, and possess the finest specimens of elaborate ornamentation to be found in England; while the great gallery has only two rivals in those of Hardwicke and Hatfield. This magnificent room is 136 feet in length by 18 in width, and 16 feet high. "It is lighted by five large mullioned windows, of four lights and twelve divisions each, the centre window slightly projecting. At the north end is a large oriel, in one of the compartments of which is a small shield, in stained glass, charged with the family arms impaling Newton, and similar to the east window of the north aisle of the church. The walls are covered with oak panelling, divided by pilasters, having capital b. The rows of panels are eight in number, each containing a semi-circular arch, supported by pilasters, all in low relief, similar to those so often seen in pulpits of the Jacobean era. A shallow cornice, or frieze, covered with ornaments, also in low relief, is carried round the room. The ceiling is decorated with two rows of ornaments, formed by squares, having semicircular projections, the centres being occupied with graceful devices, of which the principal feature is the cornucopia. The chimney-piece is of marble, and by far the most important in the house, and is in the centre of the east wall. Its principal features are broad entablatures and cornices, supported by grotesque caryatides, and divided into two principal portions, the upper one, again, being also divided into two compartments, containing oblong panels of gray marble surrounded by scroll-work. The lower portion is supported by graduated pilasters with sculptured heads, in a fine style of art." It was in this magnificent room, furnished, with a strict adherence to its character, with furniture of the Jacobean period, that her Majesty received the address of the Committee of Aston Hall.

Another royal visit once honoured the estate; and we notice it chiefly to point out the contrast between the two occasions of royal guests passing the threshold of Aston Hall. On Sunday evening, October 16, 1642, King Charles I. rode up the avenue in order to spend

that he and the next at the Hall, while his army was marching from Shrewsbury to relieve Banbury Castle; and he left the house of his loyal old subject, Sir Thomas Holte, to fight the battle of Edgehill. He had done his best, by stringent orders, to prevent any offence being given to Parliamentary Birmingham, and had two soldiers sent for helping themselves from a baker's counter there; but he could not console the townspeople. The population was then 20,000, and of these 1,200 were sent to besiege Aston Hall, which was garrisoned from Dudley Castle. There is some discrepancy between local history and the family tradition of the Holtes, as to whether the siege was laid while the King was in the house, or some months afterwards; but there is no doubt about the seizure of his marriages and plate by the townspeople, and their hostility to his cause and person. History will show to future generations the significant contrast suggested by the royal visit of 1858. Now the Sovereign goes to the avenue in broad noon—is welcomed at the front entrance by a cheering thousands, instead of slinking out by a back door, and through the gardens in the dusk, and in silence; and instead of the 6,000 people of Birmingham sending 1,200 strong men to besiege the place, a Birmingham of nearly 200,000 inhabitants sends out her thousands of citizens, with arms of the strongest and hearts of the tenderest, to welcome their Sovereign to their new playground—their own estate, which their honest weekly earnings are rapidly paying for. This brings us to the point of supreme interest in all this subject.

Through the mutations of fortune and time, Aston Hall and Park departed from the Holtes, and was sold. The purchasers were the Messrs. Greenway and Greaves, bankers, Warwick; and from these gentlemen the people of Birmingham purchased the estate. The manner of doing it we are now about to describe.

In the year 1856, the hospitals of Birmingham were, as is too often the case with most institutions, sadly in want of funds. It occurred to a few gentlemen that a grand *fete* might be held for their benefit at Aston Hall. This was done with the most unexpected success. The temporary pressure on the charities was removed; and what was of perhaps much greater importance, the attention of the people was directed to the adaptability of the place for a people's park. The difficulty was—how to purchase it. The Corporation was not in a position to buy it for the town; so the matter was left entirely to private enterprise. Nor was there much time allowed for deliberation. The plans of the proprietors for the disposal of their estate were made, and streets would be cut through the best parts of the park, and the grand old hall was to be demolished. This was to be prevented, if possible; and the only method available appeared to the promoters of the movement to be by using the recently-passed Limited Liability Act, and thus enabling the working men to buy their own park. The purchase money for the Hall and about 43 acres of land, was £35,000; and it was proposed to raise £42,000, by shares of one guinea each, these shares to be payable by half-crown calls. The working men entered heartily into the proposals. They appointed a committee to act in conjunction with the gentlemen who originated the scheme, and the work was begun.

Difficulties, however, met them at the outset. They had no funds; and the extent of the gentlemen's guarantee was well nigh exhausted. The working men then undertook a *fete* for the benefit of the movement. The permission of the proprietors was obtained for the use of the grounds; the gentlemen guaranteed the safety of the Hall, and the artisans took upon themselves the responsibility of failure or success. They succeeded; and a profit of nearly £700 was realised. With this fund they set to work with renewed energy; and the following terms were arranged between them and the proprietors. This was in September, 1857, and the committee were allowed until Christmas to test the interest the town took in saving Aston Hall. At Christmas a contract was to be entered into, and 10 per cent. on the purchase paid, or the matter definitively given up. If the contract was entered into, and the deposit paid, two years were to be allowed for the completion of the purchase, and the committee to have possession for the rest of the shareholders at a rental of twenty shillings per annum. These liberal terms were accepted, the committee appointed Mr. J. A. Langford secretary *pro tem.*, and once more the work began with a good will rarely witnessed in such undertakings.

At Christmas they were in a position to carry out the agreement, and they entered into contract. The Mayor, who from the first had taken the warmest interest in the subject, willingly joined with a number of other wealthy and responsible gentlemen, and became the contracting parties. The purchase being thus far settled, the next thing was to make the opening as imposing as possible, and Mr. Ratcliff undertook to take all the necessary steps for inviting the Queen to Birmingham for that purpose. Our readers now know that he was successful in his endeavours, and in April of the present year he had the satisfaction to announce that her most gracious Majesty had consented to open the park.

As soon as this announcement was made, the whole town was thrown into an excitement of preparation. Workmen were employed in erecting platforms and triumphal arches, and in decorating and painting the houses on her Majesty's route; and all was activity and anticipation. The long-neglected Hall became a hive of busy industry. The paint, with which some Vandal proprietor had hidden the fine old oak, was removed, and the rooms were restored to their original beauty. The garden was admirably arranged for its new purposes; and round the lawn and terrace a fine open stone wall of three feet in height was erected with excellent effect. It was arranged to have an exhibition of works of art and art-manufacture in the various rooms for the opening day, and the six following weeks. The noblemen and gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood cheerfully came forward with the loan of their pictures, while the manufacturers of the town vied with each other to produce the finest specimens of their skill. Nothing can excel the enthusiasm with which this work has been carried out; but of all things the most satisfactory is that the working men have subscribed more than £3,000 towards the purchase of the property. Many towns have public parks, but, except Birmingham, we believe that there is no town having one purchased by the working men for their own use and recreation. It is fit that a park so purchased should be inaugurated by a Queen.

THE NICARAGUAN CANAL.—The convention concluded between the Governments of Nicaragua and Costa Rica, with Millard and Co., for the construction of an interoceanic canal between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, has been published. The grantees are, within certain defined limits, permitted to choose the line which engineers may deem most advantageous, and the concession is to last for ninety-nine years, from the opening of the canal.

JONATHAN'S MODERATION.—The Paris correspondent of the "Globe" notes the course and denouement of an affair, beginning most tragically by the loss of sixty lives and a rich cargo off Marseilles, run down by Captain Durham of the clipper *Adriatic*; his escape from the legal consequences and refuge across the Atlantic at Savannah; his summons to Washington, on the complaint of France; and, to wind up the whole, a demand of indemnity on behalf of this injured Yankee from the merchants of Marseilles, whose steamer, worth £40,000, he sent to the bottom, and whose brothers and relatives, in the dead of night, he whelmed into sudden destruction! Such is the cool report of Mr. Burlingame, of Massachusetts, addressed to the President.

CAPTURE OF A SLAVER.—Her Majesty's brig *Heron*, cruising on the west coast of Africa, on the 17th of April, gave chase to a suspicious-looking barque north of the Loango. The strange craft refused to heave-to until a shot was fired across her stern. She showed American colours, but when boarded her master threw his colours overboard, thus making himself a vessel of no nation, and therefore a legal prize. It was found afterwards that she had a complete slave deck laid, and had slave coppers and slave irons, besides having 120 tons of water, and likewise a regular slave cargo. In addition to this, £1,200 in doubloons were found on the persons of the crew.

STARTLING INTELLIGENCE!—We are indebted to the "Constitutional Press" for the following:—"The nobleman who separated from his beautiful Countess in a fit of ungovernable rage, the other day, has returned to C—Park, and offered every manly apology for his rudeness."

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. NO. 77. MR. DU CANE.

We have a new aspirant for oratorical honours in the House. Mr. Du Cane shortly addressed the House some weeks ago, but he made his formal *debut* as a speaker on the second reading of Locke King's bill for granting a ten pound franchise to the counties. The Honourable Gentleman was first returned to Parliament for Malden in July, 1852, and sat until March, 1853, when he was ruthlessly dismissed by a committee for bribery and treating. He was returned for North Essex in 1857. He is a young man about thirty-three years of age, and belongs to a family long known in the county which he represents. Mr. Du Cane is a Conservative; and when the bill above named came on for second reading, he led the attack against it by moving the previous question, when he spoke for a full hour, elicited loud cheers from his Conservative friends, and when he sat down, was congratulated heartily on the success which he was said to have achieved. But in truth Mr. Du Cane has as yet achieved no success as a parliamentary orator; and, though it is always unsafe to attempt to divine the future of a young man's career from his first harangue, we think we are safe in saying that the probabilities are that he will never take a high position in the House of Commons. His speech, or rather his essay, was a mere string of obsolete Tory common-places tolerably well woven together, apparently committed to memory, and delivered much in the same way as a schoolboy delivers "My name is Nival," excepting that no schoolboy would adopt the entirely novel and ungainly action which marked but gave no emphasis to the delivery. The Honourable Member stood bolt upright, with his arms by his side, and during the whole of the hour which he occupied, kept his eyes on the ground; and the only action which he used to emphasise his thought and impress them on his hearers, was a turning of his body from right to left, and left to right, as if he were swinging backwards and forwards on an upright shaft. Perhaps much of all this may have arisen from the nervousness which naturally accompanies a young man's first attempt at a set speech in the House of Commons; and it may be that when this nervousness shall have worn off, he will look at his audience, discontinue that disagreeable half-rotary motion, and without overstepping the modesty of nature, use his arms as the practised orators do to give force to his words. He is young yet, has been well educated, took a good position at College, and has a very personable appearance; and there does not seem to be any radical reason why he should not become a speaker of somewhat more than average power. But to attain such a position in the House, he must leave obsolete Tory platitudes, study and think for himself, and moreover practise sedulously the art of delivering as well as that of manufacturing speeches.

AN INTRUDER.

Towards the latter part of last week there was evidently a flutter amongst the authorities of the House, like that which you see amongst a flock of sheep when a strange dog makes his appearance in a field. And on due inquiry made, we found that it was occasioned by the extraordinary fact that Mr. Townsend, the bankrupt member for Greenwich, had, his bankruptcy notwithstanding, not only entered the House and taken his seat, but actually voted in three separate divisions. Now, this being clearly an audacious infraction of the law—no wonder that the authorities were agitated when the infraction came to their knowledge. By the 62nd Geo. III., cap. 14, it is provided, that whenever a member shall be found and declared a bankrupt, he shall be for twelve months incapable of sitting and voting, unless the commission be superseded, or the creditors paid or satisfied to the full amount of their debts. At the expiration of the twelve months, the Commissioners are required to certify the bankruptcy to the Speaker, and the election is void. Mr. Townsend, therefore, having been declared a bankrupt, and not having obtained the supersession of the bankruptcy, nor paid nor satisfied his creditors to the full amount of their debts, has clearly no right to make his appearance in the House. But the question is, what is to be done? We remember once a worthy gentleman, whom we knew, strolling into a nobleman's park, and as he was walking along the path, enjoying the shade, and admiring the beautiful foliage of the trees and shrubs, he met with a park-keeper, when the following colloquy ensued:—*Keeper:* Have you any business at the house? *Genl.:* No. *Keeper:* I am sorry to tell you, I have strict orders to keep all strangers out of the park. *Genl.:* Good! But have you any orders to turn out those that are in? *Keeper:* Well, no, not exactly. I can't say I have. *Genl.:* Well, my friend, hadn't you better go and get fresh orders? and, meanwhile, I will walk about until you come back. *Exit Keeper.* somewhat staggered. Now, the officers of the House are, it appears, in the same predicament as the keeper was. The orders are peremptory that no bankrupt shall sit and vote—but there are no directions given as to the course that is to be pursued if any bankrupt should enter and sit and vote. Poor Mr. Townsend! that was a fatal night for his peace of mind, when that deputation of Greenwich burgesses wended its way from the Pig and Whistle to tempt him to become a member of Parliament. But for them, he might have struggled through his difficulties, and still have been a respectable auctioneer, following his not un lucrative profession. But, miserable man, he listened to the soft seductions of the Pig and Whistle sirens, who sung in his ear and promised him fame, position, and, perhaps, high office. Why not? And he actually got into Parliament, and more than once addressed the House, and seemed to himself, no doubt, about to realise all his grand aspirations. Was he not a real M.P.? Had he not addressed the British senate; and been listened to? What was there to hinder his rising higher, and still higher, until—

"But the fair guerdon—when he hoped to find,
And thought to burst out into sudden blaze,
Comes the blind fury with abhorred shears,
And slits the thin-spun life."

For that Mr. Townsend's thin-spun parliamentary life will be slit—that this Greenwich rocket, which went up so grandly, amidst the plaudits of the voters, will fall down a mere charred stick—that this bubble, blown by the Pig and Whistle deputation, will burst, we cannot doubt for a moment.

A SCOTCH DEBATE.

The liveliest debates in the House are the Irish: not those discussions on tenant-right, which usually come on at a morning sitting,—they are as dead and dull as the discussions of convocation of clergy on a dogma in theology,—but an Irish debate after midnight, upon some subject which really comes home to the business and bosoms of the members for the Emerald Isle: where, at the end of every speech, some dozen Irishmen jump up, and all at once cry out "Mr. Spaker," and even persist in speaking altogether some minutes after the Speaker has named the man that first caught his eye. These are the liveliest of our debates; and the antipodes of these Irish discussions are the Scotch. Probably there is nothing more dreary and dull and soporific in the world than a Scotch debate. Scotch subjects themselves are not usually very interesting to an English audience, and our Scotch speeches are always wearisome. The late Lord-Advocate, Mr. Moncreiff, is the best of them, but he is not an attractive speaker to any but Scotchmen. The present Lord-Advocate, though a "bright and particular star" in the Land o' Cakes, is as dry as Dr. Robertson, who, when he once complained in the vestry that he was wet through, was told by a "brother Scot" to go into the pulpit and he would soon get dry. And all the rest of the Scotch members are dull *also*, though perhaps not *likewise*; and some of them are so monotonous and dull, as to make even the watchful reporters drop their pens and doze. The reason of this excessive dullness is two-fold: first, all our Scotch speakers are simply and conscientiously argumentative: wit and humour, and fancy and illustration, are religiously eschewed,—that is one reason. And the second is, all our Scotchmen in the House, excepting some few of the highest class, speak with a more or less broad accent, which, however tolerable or even pleasant it may be to hear in conversation, certainly gives no force or life to a lengthy harangue. We do not say that you will not, if you listen, hear sound sense, but it will be delivered in the driest, most unimpassioned, and wearisome manner; and if you

wish to get at the marrow of the subject, you had much better scan the "Times" the next morning, and take the opportunity, when a Scotch debate is on, to go to the opera or a concert, or to dine out. And this seems to be the general opinion of the House; for when the Scotch University Bill lately came on, a Bill, the object of which is to effect a strange revolution in the venerable seats of learning in Scotland,—the English and Irish members, with one common consent, arose and fled, excepting some few men who always stop and sit out the evening whatever may be the subject of debate. We were there, of course, as it is our duty, and we must not shrink from that, however painful it may be. But, oh! what a dreary night it was! At times we tried to snatch a few minutes of sleep, but found it impossible. Had Henry been speaking, or Pakington, or Spooner; or if the soft, and low, and measured eloquence of my Lord Elcho had fallen upon our ears, we could easily have glided away into the land of dreams; but that Scotch accent did "murder sleep." There is nothing mellifluous and soothing in it; but, on the contrary, it sounds as if some one were constantly tapping on the drum of the ear. And so, sleep being impossible, and our presence being a necessity, we looked around the House for food for reflection—and found it. For under the gallery there was an assemblage of gentlemen whom at first sight we could not at all make out, but who, on a staid gaze, were at once revealed to our eyes as Scotch University Professors. Yes! there could be no mistake. Their white neckcloths indicated that they were clerics; their high cheek-bones told their country; and the thinness and paleness of their face, and the gauntness of their frames, the fruit of over-much study, which is a weariness to the flesh, announced to us that they were professors. And, on a further inquiry, we found that we were right. They had heard the bruit of the bill of the Lord-Advocate's, which is to shake up the old colleges, take away the patronage from the corporation, elevate the educational status, and, if possible, to galvanise these old dead or dying bones with life and vigour; and, oh, better than all, to increase the salaries of the professors. And they had left their studies and manses down at Edinburgh, and Glasgow, and Aberdeen, and just come up to see what it's about. We have seen a good many changes in that gallery. Indeed, by noting the occupants of those seats, we are able now to give a pretty good guess at the business of the night. Sometimes the benches are covered with peers of the realm—my Lord Derby, the jolly-looking Bishop of Oxford, the pale, plain-faced, solemn-looking Prelate of London, the bustling Stanley of Alderley, the Earl Granville, my Lord Colville, who acts for the Whigs as whip to the Lords, the somewhat diminutive Lord Dufferin, who has surprised and delighted the reading public by his "Letters from High Latitudes," tall and gaunt Chamberlain, who has the reputation of helping to found the Palmerstonian government, the noted Stratford de Redcliffe, and the venerable Marquis of Lansdowne, in the old Whig costume of blue and buff; and then we know that some political move is up. At other times the seats under the gallery present a formidable array of English clergymen, whose presence is a sure sign that Spooner is to tread the boards in the serio-comic play of "Maynooth." Lately, they were filled by keen, active railway chairmen, directors, parliamentary agents, and solicitors; for there was expected to be a battle between the London and North-Western and the Great Northern. But we have never before seen the peers' galleries filled by Scotch professors. They are, indeed, a singular-looking race—those gaunt and pale-faced schoolmen. As one of the members said, they looked as if they had fed all their lives on nothing but Scotch metaphysics and logic. But it is not to be wondered at, that, generally, all unmovable as they are, they should hurry up to town to watch the bill; for, as we understand it, it is a most revolutionary measure, and has fluttered and disturbed and agitated the learned world of Scotland more than anything that has happened since the days when that long array of ministers, headed by Chalmers, marched through the streets of Edinburgh to the Kirk to protest against laymen laying their unholy hands upon the ark, and then to retire from the Establishment to establish the Free Church. And what is remarkable, and deserves notice, is, that the revolutionary measure is introduced by a Conservative Government.

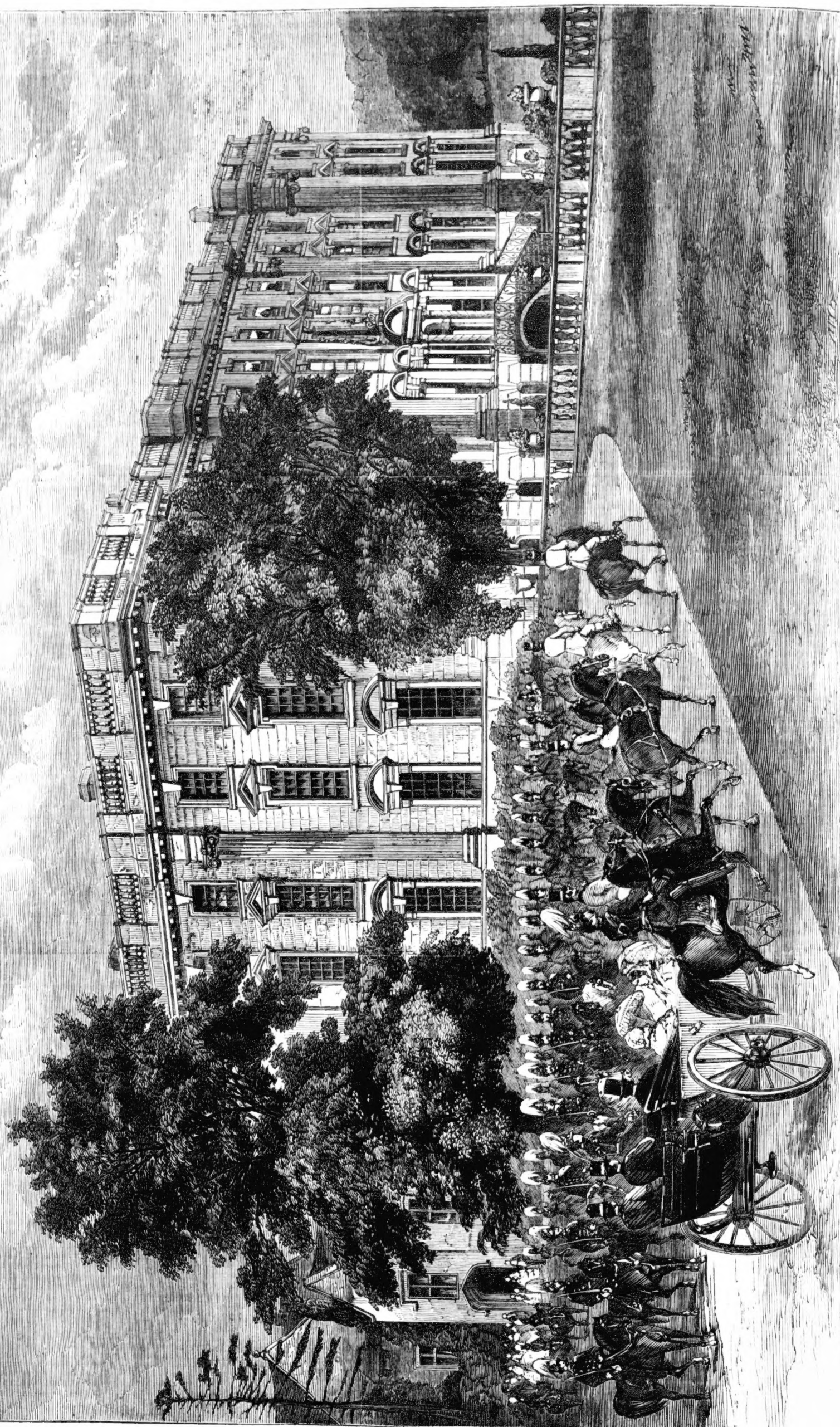
THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION.

On Monday night, for seven long hours, the House was in committee discussing the fifth of Mr. Disraeli's Indian resolutions. The question was whether the House would adopt Mr. Disraeli's proposition to make the Indian Council partly nominative and partly elective, or Lord John Russell's to make it all nominative, and vest the nomination in the Crown. And again we saw the remarkable sight of a Tory Government strenuously fighting for a "liberal" proposition, and the Liberals, headed by a Russell, battling for a conservative measure. In the early part of the evening, the debate was not particularly lively, but at its close the House got very full, and, of course, impatient and excited, and, moreover, there was a short sparring match between Sir James Graham and Lord John. The latter had used the word "disingenuous" in his speech. Sir James thought "his Noble Friend" had applied the "hard" word to him, and he arose, and in a very serious strain, complained of his "Noble Friend," and there seemed at the time to be a feud springing up between these two ancient allies. But Lord John got up, and assured his Right Honourable Friend, &c., and, in short, extracted dexterously the arrow, applied a little of the "parmaesti" of kindly words and smiling looks to the "inward bruise," and the matter was settled. After this was over, Sir Charles Wood arose, but lo! instead of listening to the late First Lord, the House broke out into a storm of "Oh oh!" and "vide vide!" How is this? But lately Sir Charles was always listened to, however wearisome and lengthy he might be. Yes! but that was when he was on the Treasury Bench, and spoke as "one having authority." Now he is a mere member of Parliament, and must be measured by the common standard. That Monday night was a pleasant night for the Government, for on a division, Lord John's amendment was rejected by a large majority; and on an attempt being made to adjourn the debate, and thereby postpone the passing of Mr. Disraeli's original proposition, Ministers got another victory, and passed the resolution without further division. We have now got over five of these noted resolutions, nine more have to be discussed, and then a bill founded thereon is to be brought in. Towards the end of next week we shall perhaps get the foundations of our Indian Constitution laid down. But shall we be able to raise and finish the superstructure this session? It is very questionable. The weather is getting furiously hot; the Thames stinketh beyond all precedent; the sea-shore, and the mountains, and the valleys, are every day becoming more powerfully attractive. Moreover, the supplies are not yet all granted. Several pressing measures are on the paper. There is a chance, then, for the East India Company yet. "Threatened men," as Mr. Mangles said, "proverbially live long."

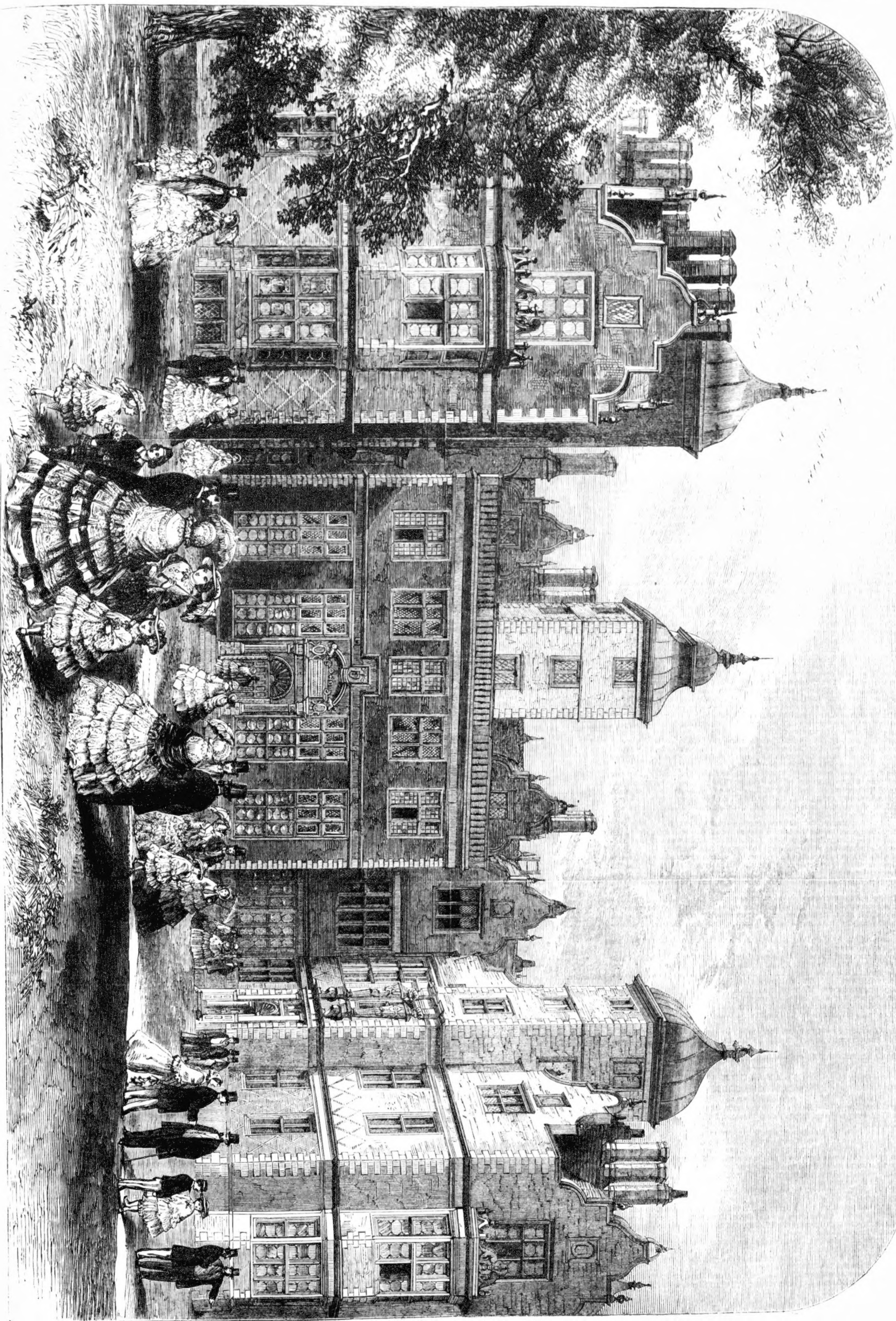
MR. TOWNSEND AGAIN.

On Monday night Mr. Townsend again marched into the House, and it was expected that we should have a scene. But the subject was not mentioned, for by some blunder the return from the Bankruptcy Court had not been printed. It was handed about subsequently, but then the time had passed. However, on Tuesday morning all was ready, and soon after the House met, Mr. Fitzroy moved the first of a series of resolutions. Whereupon Mr. Townsend himself arose, and in a speech of some twenty minutes length, explained why he had entered the House and voted, and expressed his readiness to submit with the profoundest respect to the decision of the House. The Honourable Member then retired, and the House unanimously declared that he had no right to be present and vote, and further ordered the votes which he has given to be expunged from the lists.

THE HUDSON'S BAY DIOROS.—The rush of miners and others from San Francisco, California, and Oregon, is very great to the new gold districts in the Hudson's Bay territory, between the Frazer and Thompson Rivers, opposite Vancouver's Island. Should favourable accounts be received by the next mail, no doubt the attention of people at home will be called to them; but, until this can be truly proved, we would not advise any emigration to this territory for gold-seeking.



THE ARRIVAL OF HER MAJESTY AT TONERLEIGH ABBEY.



ASTON HALL, NEAR BIRMINGHAM.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, JUNE 11.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE CAGLIARI.—SETTLEMENT OF THE QUESTION.

The Earl of MALMESBURY stated that the matter of the Cagliari was settled. The King of Naples had granted £3,000 as compensation to the English engineers. The vessel had been placed at the disposal of the Queen of England, and she would be sent back to Sardinia at once.

PROPERTY QUALIFICATION.

On the order of the day for going into committee on the Property Qualification Bill.

Earl GREY moved an instruction to the committee to insert a clause, making the members of both Houses of Parliament liable to arrest for debt under the judgment of any court of competent jurisdiction. While they were taking away a security, however imperfect, for the character and independence of the House of Commons, they should abolish a privilege which in the present state of society was a mere scandal, and ought not to exist.

The opinion of the House, as indicated in the short discussion that ensued, was opposed to effecting such an object by a mere amendment to the bill under consideration; the proposal should be embodied in a separate measure.

Earl FORSTER, Lord CAMPBELL, and the Earl of DERRY, opposed the amendment, which was negatived, and the bill passed through committee.

THE FRENCH SLAVE TRADE.

Lord MALMESBURY said, in answer to Lord Brougham, that he was not prepared to give any information respecting the occurrences described as having taken place on board a French vessel on the African coast, engaged in the transport of free negro emigrants.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.
INDIAN ANNEXATION.

In reply to Mr. J. B. Smith, Lord STANLEY said it was the intention of the Government to disallow the annexation of the Principality of Diar.

LORD CANNING'S PROCLAMATION.

Mr. WILSON inquired of the President of the Board of Control whether any distinct information had been received that Lord Canning's proclamation had been issued at Lucknow, and of the result produced upon the talookdars.

Lord STANLEY said, that a proclamation had been issued to the people of Oude, but that it had been considerably modified from the original draft. He had reason to believe that the policy pursued in Oude was a policy of pacification, and that it had been satisfactory to the landed proprietors. In reply to a question, of which notice had been given by Sir E. PERRY, he stated that in a private letter received from Lord Canning, there were enclosures relating to public matters, but he could not yet say whether they could be laid upon the table without inconvenience to the public service.

SANITARY STATE OF CHURCHES IN THE METROPOLIS.

Mr. LAURIE called the attention of the House to Dr. Letheby's report of the sanitary state of the churches, especially those in the metropolis, pointing out their dangerous condition, owing to the interment of corpses beneath them.

Mr. HARDY said that every effort would be made to get rid of intramural interments.

WARLIKE PREPARATIONS IN EUROPE.

Sir C. NAPIER inquired of the Chancellor of the Exchequer if it was his intention to ask for an additional vote for seamen and marines in consequence of the vast preparations making in some parts of Europe by sea and land; and whether, when the additional troops were sent to India, it was the intention of the Government to call out an equal number of militia to replace them. He thought, considering the great exertions making in France, and the facilities of communication between the interior and Cherbourg, that the country ought to know the state of our naval defences, and whether we were safe from sudden invasion.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER said that her Majesty's Government were deeply sensible of the responsibility cast upon them to defend the country and vindicate its honour; but it was extremely inconvenient to go into the details of our means of defence, or those means which our allies or other states had at their disposal for our annoyance. Sir Charles seemed to imagine that it was the object of even our allies to go to war with us suddenly, without the usual warning and without any apparent cause. No information had reached the Government of any extraordinary preparations in France; and the relations between the two countries were of a cordial and confidential nature. He believed that the general state of our alliances with the great Powers of Europe was encouraging to those who desired a continuance of peace. Had the prospect been of a different character, the state of the defences of the country was such as to enable us to defend our shores, if necessary, and to vindicate our honour.

Mr. BENTINCK observed that Mr. Disraeli had not answered the question put to him. The House ought to know what our defences were, should any combination of untoward circumstances produce a collision with a neighbouring state. It was a matter of doubt whether they were sufficient, and the doubt ought not to exist.

Mr. BRIGHT said he wished to know the precise point of expenditure and force at which gentlemen would be prepared to say this country was in a state of defence. We were spending a larger sum for armaments than ever before in time of peace; and it would be as easy to show that we were in danger of invasion if we had twice the expenditure we now had for armaments. He ridiculed the notion of invasion, and eulogised the just and moderate foreign policy of the Government.

Sir J. PAKINGTON said he had not the slightest distrust of the loyalty and good faith of the Emperor of the French. The present Government had exerted themselves to make our defences complete, solely in order to be prepared for any emergency, and he felt it to be his duty to say that we could, at the shortest notice, assemble a fleet capable of coping with any fleet in Europe.

ARREST OF CAPTAIN JUDKINS.—THE CAGLIARI.

Mr. HORSFALL called attention to the arrest of Captain Judkins, of the Royal mail-steamers Persia, in New York, which he said was a case of considerable importance to the shipping interests of this country.

Mr. S. FITZGERALD said the case would receive the most anxious consideration of the Government. He stated (in reply to Mr. Ridley) that the compensation to the engineers of the Cagliari was granted in answer to the categorical demand of the British Government, and that the sum was £3,000.

THE INDIA RESOLUTIONS.

The House then returned into committee upon the resolutions relating to the government of India, commencing with that part of the fourth resolution which fixed the number of the members of the Council, and which was left abruptly in an imperfect state on the last discussion of the resolutions.

A proposition by Lord JOHN RUSSELL, that the number be not greater than twelve, was negatived.

Lord STANLEY then moved the resolution in this form:—"That in order to assist such Minister of the Crown in the discharge of his duties, it is expedient that a council be appointed of not more than fifteen members, and not less than twelve." The motion was carried.

Lord STANLEY moved the next resolution, "That, in order to secure the greatest amount of knowledge and experience in the management of the affairs of India, it is advisable that the principal portion of the members of the Council shall have served in India for a term of years to be limited by statute."

Mr. GREGOR moved to insert the words "or resided" after "served." This amendment was agreed to, and the resolution thus amended was adopted.

The Chairman was then ordered to report progress.

MONDAY, JUNE 14.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

THE OATHS BILL.

On the motion of the Earl of MALMESBURY, the second reading of the Oaths Bill was postponed from Friday, on account of the indisposition of the Earl of Derby.

ORGANISATION OF THE MILITIA.

In answer to several questions put by the Duke of Buccleugh, in reference to calling out and training the militia, and the appointment of a Royal Commission to inquire into the organisation of the Militia Staff.

Lord HARDINGE stated that a Commission would be appointed to inquire into the subject. A portion of the militia would be called out for training during the next autumn.

Earl GREY thought it should be decided whether the militia was to be a separate force, or a reserve for furnishing recruits to the regular army. At present it competed with the army in recruiting. If the militia were reduced to its proper character of a local force, the expenditure saved would add to the means of increasing the efficiency of the regular army, on which the country must at last depend.

The Duke of CAMBRIDGE believed that such questions would be best considered by the commission, which he understood would make a very full inquiry. The militia might be both a local force and also a valuable means of filling up the ranks of the army.

The Chancery Amendment Bill was read a third time, and the Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Act Amendment Bill went through committee.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.
PACIFICATION OF OUDE.

In reply to Sir E. PERRY,

Lord STANLEY read an extract from a private letter of Lord Canning, and another from a private letter of Mr. Montgomery, giving a favourable account of the progress that was being made in the settlement of Oude.

THE INDIA RESOLUTIONS.

The House having again resolved itself into a committee on the Government of India,

Lord STANLEY moved the fifth resolution, "That, with a view to the efficiency and independence of the Council, it is expedient that it should be partly nominated and partly elected." He said that in proposing that a portion should be elected, the Government were improving rather than departing from the present system. He did not confound the principle of election with that of representation; he proposed it as a means whereby the services of men at once eminent and independent might be obtained. The constituency, to be proposed in a subsequent resolution, would consist of proprietors of East India Stock, holders of Indian railway shares, and retired officers in the various branches of the Indian service, forming an aggregate number of between 7,000 and 8,000, embodying a large amount of persons interested in Indian affairs, and a large amount combining with a knowledge of Indian administration freedom from political bias.

Lord J. RUSSELL moved by way of amendment, that the members of the Council be appointed by her Majesty. He objected to the proposed constituency; with the exception of retired Indian servants, they would feel no special interest in the welfare of India. If Lord Stanley should succeed in his proposition, and ten out of fifteen or eight out of twelve of the Council should be returned by his electoral body, he would give rise to a system of corruption. He (Lord John) would have all the members nominated by the Crown, through a Minister of the Crown, responsible for what he did.

Sir J. GRAHAM said, he had been of opinion from the first that a change in the government of India at the present moment was most inopportune, and high authorities were of opinion that at this time it was inexpedient. But the House having resolved that the government of India should be transferred from the Company to the Crown, and that there should be a Council to assist the Indian Minister, he would build upon the old foundation. He suggested therefore that the first members of council should be nominated in the bill, and comprise a majority of members of the present Court of Directors.

In the debate which followed, the resolution, the amendment, and the proposition of Sir J. Graham, underwent a very long discussion, which wandered from principle to details, and into the policy of the whole measure. In the course of the discussion,

Lord PALMERSTON said he did not think that Sir J. Graham had proposed a plan that would solve the difficulty; and

Mr. GLADSTONE observed that there were many strong objections to both extreme principles—election by a constituency, on the one hand, and pure nomination on the other.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER reminded the Committee that the resolution did not pledge it to approve any specific mode of election, or any particular constituency. At length a division took place, when Lord John Russell's amendment was negatived by 250 to 185.

The question upon the resolution being put, Lord GODERICH moved that the Chairman report progress, in order to afford time for the consideration of Sir J. Graham's proposition. This motion was negatived upon a division by 239 to 155.

The resolution, after a few words of explanation from Lord J. Russell and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, was then agreed to, and the Chairman was ordered to report progress.

THE DISTURBANCES IN IRELAND.

On the order for the second reading of the Peace Preservation (Ireland) Act Continuance Bill,

Mr. BAGWELL, considering that there was no necessity for the bill, moved to defer the second reading for six months.

Upon a division, the amendment was negatived by 168 to 20, and the bill was read a second time.

TUESDAY, JUNE 15.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

MANNING A CHANNEL FLEET.

The Earl of MALMESBURY stated that a commission had been appointed to inquire into the best mode of manning the navy; but it should not be supposed that the present naval force could not be manned in a short space of time, or that ships enough to defend the Channel could not be immediately provided with crews.

THE PROPERTY QUALIFICATION BILL.

Earl FORSTER moved the third reading of the Property Qualification Bill.

Lord RAYNESWORTH, the Earl of CLANCARTY, and the Earl of WICKLOW, strongly opposed the measure, on the ground that it would lead to further changes, such as the payment of members, and would abolish the security that an individual returned to the House of Commons was entitled to aspire to that honour.

Lord BROUGHAM thought that as a qualification was often proved by falsehood and sometimes by perjury, it ought to be abolished; but the abolition should be accompanied by an Act, rendering incapable of holding a seat all persons who should not have paid their debts within twelve months after they had been declared bankrupt. He gave notice he should introduce a measure to that effect.

Lord DENHAM moved that the Bill be read a third time that day six months, but it was negatived without a division.

The Bill was then read a third time.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.
MR. TOWNSEND.

Mr. FITZROY moved that a copy of the record of the adjudication of bankruptcy against Mr. John Townsend, the member for Greenwich, be read in conjunction with the Act 52nd of George III., c. 144.

This having been done, a discussion ensued, in which Mr. Townsend took part, and which resulted in the following resolution:—"That Mr. John Townsend, member for the borough of Greenwich, having been found, declared, and adjudged a bankrupt from the 29th of March, had since been, and still was, by law, incapable of sitting and voting in that House."

This resolution was agreed to, the SOLICITOR-GENERAL remarking that the statute did not require that a bankrupt member should immediately lose his seat; it allowed him an interval of twelve months, during which he might get the commission superseded, or pay his creditors, he in the meantime being incapacitated from sitting and voting.

THE CAGLIARI.

Mr. S. FITZGERALD, in reply to Mr. Serjeant Deasy, stated that the arrangement by which the King of Naples had placed the Cagliari and her crew at the disposal of her Majesty solely at the demand of the British authorities.

MR. BARBER'S CASE.

On the motion of Mr. Brady, and with the assent of Sir J. Pakington, a select committee was ordered to inquire into the case of Mr. Barber, who had been unjustly convicted and punished for alleged malpractices as a solicitor.

AN UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SCOTLAND.

Mr. BAXTER moved a resolution setting forth that, in the opinion of the House, an Under-Secretary of State for Scotland should be appointed to perform the political duties at present attached to the office of Lord-Advocate. The Hon. Member, in supporting his motion, enlarged upon the extent and importance of the political duties which the Lord-Advocate was called upon to execute, especially as regarded the carriage of measures relating to Scotland through the House of Commons, and the distribution of patronage. He insisted that these duties were inconsistent with the legal and judicial functions assigned to the Lord-Advocate, and ought to be performed by a specially-appointed minister of the Crown.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Ewart.

Mr. BOLVERBEE believed that the proposed change would impair the efficiency of the present system as regarded the transaction of Scotch business, both legal and political, in that House.

The motion received a qualified support from Mr. Stirling, and was opposed by Mr. E. Ellice and Sir J. Ogilvy.

Mr. CRAVEND spoke strongly in favour of the motion, which was opposed by

Mr. W. WILLIAMS, who was not convinced of the necessity of creating a new office.

The LORD-ADVOCATE also opposed the bill. The appointment of an Under-Secretary of State for Scotland would not, he said, diminish the weight of duty devolving upon the office, which experience had shown him to be almost exclusively of a judicial character.

Lord DUNCAN and Lord PALMERSTON having spoken in opposition to the bill, and Mr. Dunlop in its support,

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER maintained that under the present system there was no lack either of responsibility or efficiency in the conduct of the Scotch department of administration.

On a division there appeared: for the motion, 47; against it 174.

NEW POLICE REGULATIONS FOR IRELAND.

Lord NAAS obtained leave to bring in a Bill to make better provision for the police force in Dublin and other towns in Ireland. It was proposed to abolish the local police force in those places, to amalgamate it with the constabulary, and to establish one uniform police system throughout Ireland. He specified the details of the measure, including the expense, the

manner in which it was to be defrayed, and the provisions made for a police force for the smaller towns.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16.
HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Little business of public importance was transacted on Wednesday. Mr. A. BLACK moved the second reading of a bill for the abolition of the Edinburgh Annuity-tax, established by Charles I. as a provision for his ministers of the church.

After some discussion, in which the LORD-ADVOCATE made a partial opposition to the bill, it was lost by a majority of 1 for the second reading; 129; against, 130.

Some other business was transacted, and the House adjourned.

THURSDAY, JUNE 17.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

On the report of the Divorce and Matrimonial Causes Amendment Bill being brought up, the provisions of the Act were, on the motion of Lord Redesdale, extended to Ireland.

The Bishop of OXFORD presented a petition from St. Mary's, Jamaica, complaining of the continued violation by the Government of Spain of the treaties by which that country is bound to suppress the slave trade to the island of Cuba, and praying that measures should be taken to compel Spain to fulfil the conditions of those treaties.

A lengthy conversation followed, in which the topic of the slave trade and its suppression, the right of search question, and the treaty obligations of Spain, were discussed. Ultimately the petition was ordered to lie on the table.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The House of Commons, at the morning sitting, having resolved itself into a committee upon the Government of India, resumed the consideration of the remaining resolutions, beginning with the 6th:—"That the members of the nominated portion of the Council shall be selected by her Majesty, subject, as a general rule, to the qualification before expressed, and one-half at the least of the elected members shall possess the like qualification."

Lord STANLEY said the Government proposed, not to vest the election in any particular constituency, but to deal with the first appointments thus:—Accepting the number of fifteen, they proposed that, out of the fifteen members, eight should be nominated by the Crown, and that the other seven should be elected out of their own body by the existing Court of Directors. For the filling up of vacancies, they proposed that every alternate vacancy should be filled up by nomination by the Crown, and by the choice of the members of the whole Council.

Lord PALMERSTON suggested that, before this new proposition was considered, it should be placed upon the votes, and that time should be given for deliberating upon it. He strongly urged the House not to resort to any unconstitutional locus pocus, or to adopt any principle in this question contrary to our constitutional system.

After some further discussion, The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER proposed that the 6th and 7th resolutions, relating to the constitution of the Council, should be omitted, and the debate deferred until the Government proposition was in print.

In the course of the succeeding discussion, the tenure of office by the members of Council, their patronage, their salaries, and the nature of their functions, and whether they were to be admitted to a knowledge of all despatches, were considered; and Lord STANLEY gave explanations upon these and other points.

Ultimately, the 6th and remaining resolutions were withdrawn, and the Chairman was ordered to report the resolutions which had been agreed to, and to ask for leave to bring in a bill founded thereon.

In the evening, Mr. FITZROY brought up the report of the committee upon the first five resolutions, which were agreed to, and leave was given to bring in a bill founded upon these resolutions.

Lord STANLEY immediately brought in the bill, which was read a first time, and ordered to be read a second time on Thursday next.

Several bills were advanced a stage; and, after the transaction of some business of little general interest, the House adjourned.

MURDER AND SUICIDE.

A HORRIBLE case of murder and suicide occurred at Islington on Wednesday. A woman, belonging to the class known as "unfortunate," who was in the habit of receiving visits from persons moving in a superior station of life, was shot by one of her lovers, who then destroyed himself. The circumstance is at present shrouded in considerable mystery.

THE PRICE OF A SEAT IN PARLIAMENT.—The prices of obtaining seats at the late general election were as follows:—London:—Russell, £3,222; Rothchild, £1,313; Duke, £1,068; Crawford, £999; Currie, £970. Tower Hamlets:—Ayrton, £1,337; Butler, £1,183; Clay, £806. Finsbury:—Duncombe, £1,113; Cox, £2,308; Parry, £736. Lambeth:—Roupeil, £5,336; Williams, £1,705; Wilkinson, £2,688. Southwark:—Napier, £1,219; Locke, 3,889; Pellatt, £684. In Westminster and Marylebone, no contest.—Shelly, £115; Evans, £164; Hall, £100; Ebrington, £154. The above returns show that an election for a metropolitan borough, when contested, may cost any sum varying from £1,500 to nearly £5,000. In respect of the borough of Liverpool, the return made by Mr. T. Carson, the election auditor, shows that £3,142 was paid by Mr. Houghton, on account of Mr. Ewart, making a total expenditure of £5,365.

THE VICTORIA CROSS.—The Queen has conferred the decoration of the Victoria Cross on the under-mentioned officers and non-commissioned officers of her Majesty's army, for acts of bravery performed by them in the Crimea during the late war. 2nd Dragoons—Sergeant Henry Ramage; 3rd Regiment, late of the 30th—Brevet Major Mark Waller; 57th Regiment—Colour-Sergeant George Gardiner; late of the 6th Dragoons—Sergeant James Mouatt, C.B. (now Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals); Royal Engineers—Captain Howard Crawford Elphinstone; Colour-Sergeants Henry Macdonald, and Peter Leitch.

COURTESIES OF THE ALLIANCE.—The "St. Helena Herald" of the 4th of March contains an ordinance of the Governor, granting to the Emperor of the French, and his heirs in perpetuity, the lands forming the sites of Longwood and the tomb of Napoleon I. The lands in Napoleon's Vale, where the tomb is situated, comprise about twenty-three acres, while those of Longwood comprise about three acres. They recently belonged to private owners, and have been purchased by the Emperor (with the sanction of our own Government) for 180,000 francs.

THE JEW BILL IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS.—A circular has been issued by Lord Derby to his supporters, which announces the intention of the Government to offer no further opposition to the admission of the Jews to Parliament. While thus conceding the political expediency of this admission, Lord Derby seizes the occasion to reiterate his moral conviction that the Jews ought not to sit in Parliament.

THE TUSCAN EMBASSY.—Lord Malmesbury has filled up the mission to Tuscany, left vacant by the strange flight of Mr. Howard, by appointing as his successor Mr. Lyons, who has just conducted with so much address the unofficial negotiations with Naples. Mr. Lyons has been long attached to the mission at Florence, filling the very responsible post of the resident, though unaccredited, representative of Great Britain at Rome, and is thoroughly acquainted with the politics of the Italian Peninsula. He is the eldest son of Lord Lyons, and first entered the diplomatic service as Attaché at Athens in February, 1839.

LOANS TO FOREIGN STATES.—A return to the House of Commons, shows that, during the year 1857, £47,258 16s. was advanced on behalf of the Greek Loan, and £83,311 19s. 2d. for the Russian Dutch Loan. There remained due to this country, on the 31st of December last, £661,937 18s. 11d. by Greece, and £1,964,241 10s. 2d. by Sardinia.

FREEDOM FROM ARREST.—The Bill prepared and brought into the House of Commons by Mr. Hunt, Mr. Moffat, and Mr. Knightley, to abolish freedom from arrest in the case of members of Parliament, provides, "That after the passing of this act, privilege of Parliament shall not extend to the exemption of any member of Parliament from arrest or imprisonment upon the judgment, rule, or order, or decree, of any court of competent jurisdiction, any law or custom to the contrary notwithstanding."

THE EARL OF DERRY AT THE MERCHANT TAYLORS' SCHOOL.—The election of scholars to St. John's College, Oxford, from this ancient school took place last week; the usual speeches were afterwards delivered in the school-room, prizes distributed, &c. &c., the day's proceedings concluding with a banquet. The Earl of Derby was present, and in reply to the toast, her Majesty's Ministers, he said that when he entered into office the country was involved in two wars, one of which had been happily, to all appearance, brought to a close, and every means that could be adopted to ensure a successful issue had been employed towards the termination of the other. It was not only to the interest and happiness of this great nation to preserve peace and unity with her neighbours, but for the good of all mankind. The Noble Earl said he believed the policy of the Emperor of the French was so friendly to this country that he would even sacrifice a part of his popularity with the army rather than rupture an alliance which was for the mutual benefit of the two greatest nations in the world. The misapprehensions with reference to any violation of our friendship with the United States of America he trusted were at an end. Lord Derby also touched upon the very satisfactory termination of the Cagliari affair.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS

... though they feared for the result, and abjuring him—'Keep up, Jack! Stick to it, old fellow,' &c., all of which was of course admissible, and part of the play. . . . The party with whom Powers is associated realised about 10,000 dollars by the operation."

EARL TALBOT AND THE SHREWSBURY PEERAGE.

THE antiquity and illustrious origin of the Earldom of Shrewsbury, the vast possessions which have been annexed to it by Act of Parliament, the circumstances under which the late claims to the peerage were preferred, and the difficulties which beset Henry John Chetwynd, Earl Talbot, in the (at last) successful assertion of his rights, invested the inquiry with more than common interest.

The patent was first granted as far back as the 20th Henry VI., A.D. 1442, to John Lord Talbot and the heirs-male of his body lawfully begotten. Of this—the “great” Earl of Shrewsbury—Lord Macaulay writes:—“He had long been remembered by his countrymen with tenderness and reverence as one of the most illustrious of those warriors who had striven to erect a great English empire on the continent of Europe. The stubborn courage which he had shown in the midst of disasters had made him an object of interest greater than more fortunate captains had inspired, and his death had furnished a singularly touching scene to our early stage.”

From the first Earl the title descended in succession, from father to son, down to Edward, eighth Earl, who died without issue in the year 1617. It then reverted to the descendants of Sir Gilbert Talbot of Grafton, who was the second son of the second Earl of Shrewsbury. This Sir Gilbert was a soldier, Captain of Calais, and a Knight of the Garter, at a period when the badge of that illustrious Order was worn by merit, and not by rank alone. He had two sons, of whom the elder died without issue male, and the younger, Sir John Talbot of Albrighton and Grafton, was twice married, first to Margaret Troutbeck, and second to Elizabeth Wrottesley. By the first marriage he had a son, Sir John Talbot of Grafton, who was the father of John Talbot of Grafton. This John married Katherine, daughter to Sir W. Petar, counsellor to King Henry VIII., and was father to George and John Talbot. Upon the decease of the eighth Earl, the eldest brother George succeeded as ninth earl, and dying without issue, the title descended to the eldest son of his brother John, who became tenth Earl of Shrewsbury, and was the immediate ancestor of the whole of that numerous branch of the family which is now shown to be extinct, including amongst its members seven earls, one of whom was created a duke, and ending with Bertram Arthur, late and seventeenth earl.

Besides John, tenth earl, John his father had two other sons, George and Gilbert. George was shown to have died without issue male, but Gilbert had not even been mentioned in the pedigree furnished by Earl Talbot. He was shown by the oppo-



EARL TALBOT, THE SUCCESSFUL CLAIMANT OF THE SHREWSBURY PEERAGE.—(FROM A PHOTOGRAPH BY J. WATKINS.)

nents to his claim to have been made in 1609 and 1616; but his appearing in the patent as an earl's younger son, his brother George in 1617, of Lords considered the fact to be that he had died without issue. Sir John Grafton had but one son, Grafton, whom we have seen, and we find there is no reverting again to the remaining issue of Sir John of Albrighton and Grafton, where a memorial Church, where a memorial monument is an inscription, part of which is now in an old manuscript from Lord Lyttelton was to evidence, to show what fact once was, and that it was John of Albrighton and Grafton by his first wife. According to the strict rules of evidence to receive this evidence, no doubt could be entertained truly represented the inscription, which were deciphered from the itself. No mention is made in the case presented to the House by Lord Talbot of the existence of any other sons, suggested that Major Talbot of W. ford, alleged his claim to be from one of them; but as no trace of these children was in any of the evidence which discovered on either side, the obvious inference is, that they infancy, or, at all events, issue; and we come to the Sir John of Albrighton, by his wife, Elizabeth Wrottesley, were two sons by this marriage, Gilbert and John, it being a fact that the youngest son bore the same Christian name as the of the first marriage. George without issue in 1571, and distinguished in the pedigree of Talbot of Salwarpe, married daughter of Sir Henry of Lacock Abbey, and was father of three sons, Sherrington, John George; from the two young descend two families of Talbot, we believe, in existence—the Talbot of Badgworth and the Talbots of W. field. The eldest son, Sherrington Rudge, was twice married, and numerous family of sons and daughters. By his first wife, Leighton, he had six sons, Sherrington, Robert, John, Henry, Sir Gilbert, and Thomas; and by his second wife four sons, George, Edward, William, and Francis.

From William, the third son of the second marriage, Earl Talbot descended; and the greatest difficulty which his counsel had to contend with in the progress of this claim, was to account satisfactorily for the fact



THE ILLUMINATIONS AT STONELEIGH.

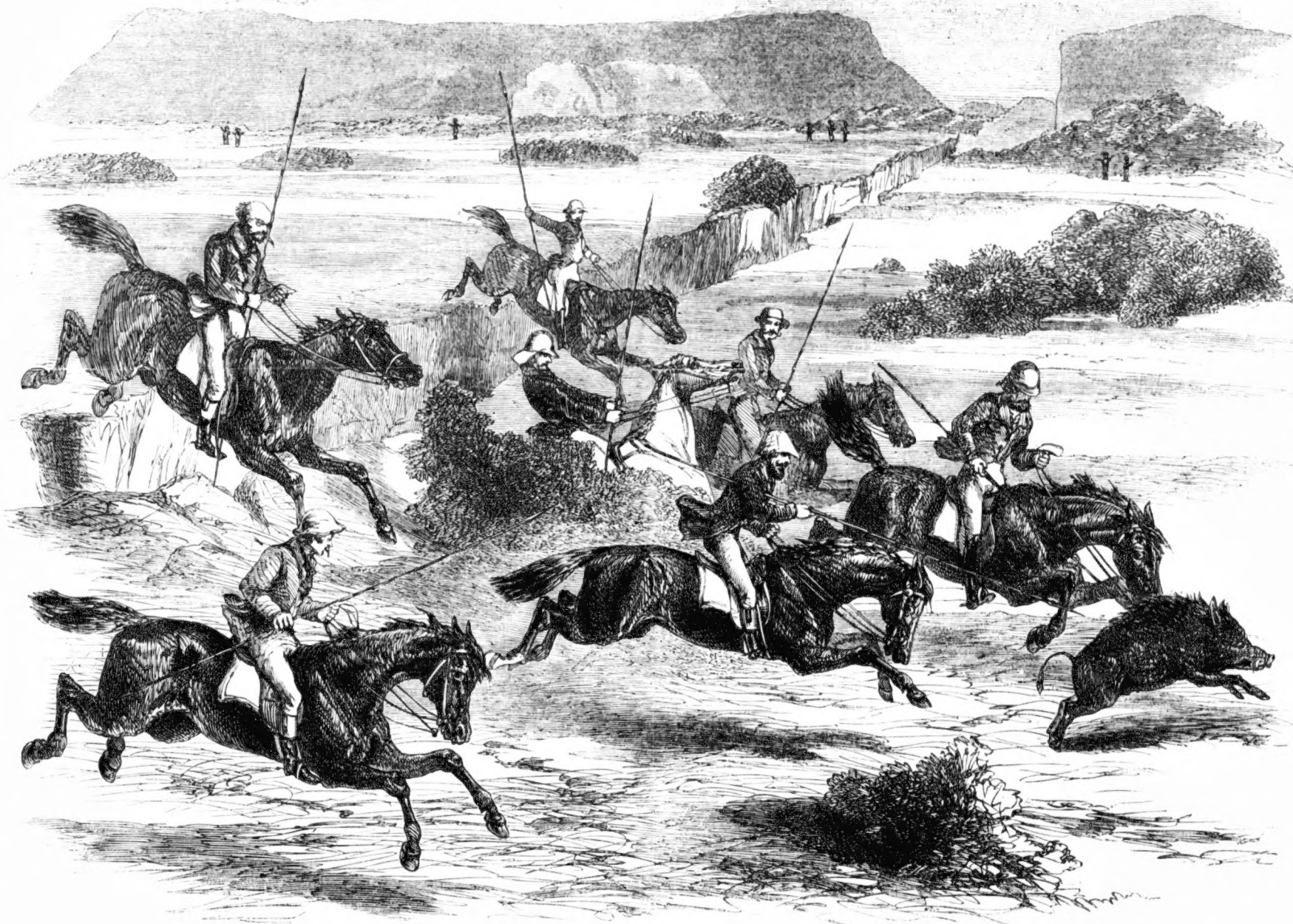
of the issue of the many brothers of William, whose claims, had they survived, were prior to his; and the difficulty was enhanced from the fact that a pedigree, produced from the Herald's College, where it had been entered in a book called "Benefactors," by Gilbert, one of the brothers above-mentioned, and which otherwise would have been entitled to the highest consideration, contained a wilfully false statement, or rather omission, of the name of his brother Thomas, made, it is supposed, on account of this brother having contracted a low marriage. A reference, however, to the muniments of Lacock Abbey left no doubt that none of the male descendants of any of these brothers remain at this day. The eldest brother, Sherrington of Rudge, married Jane Littleton, and had seven sons; of these, Sir John, of Lacock, married twice, and had three sons, who predeceased him without issue. Another son, Charles, was married, and had one son, Gilbert, a captain in the navy, who died about 1708, leaving an only daughter; and the remaining brothers of Sir John of Lacock, either died young or without issue. Of Robert, John, and Henry, nothing is known except the statement in Benefactor's pedigree, that the first died in Ireland, and the other two in the wars of the Palatinate; and this statement was corroborated by the settlement made in 1683 upon the marriage of the son of Sir John of Lacock, by which the estates appeared to have been entailed upon every male living member of the family, however remote, and in which no mention is made of either of those uncles as if alive or as leaving issue which

could inherit. Sir Gilbert died at a great age, without issue; and Thomas, the youngest of the whole blood, married, and had a son, Sherrington, who married Sarah Squire, and had one son, Sherrington, who died a child in the year 1703.

Of the sons by the second marriage of Sherrington Talbot of Rudge, the two elder ones were accounted for; and we come to William, who married Mary, daughter of Thomas Doughty, of Whittington, and was the immediate ancestor of Earl Talbot. But before we proceed with him, we must review the state of the family in all its branches at the period of the death of the Duke of Shrewsbury in the year 1717—a nobleman thus portrayed by Lord Macaulay:—"His person was pleasing, his temper singularly sweet, his parts such that, if he had been born in humble rank, might well have raised him to the height of civil greatness; all these advantages he had so improved that before he was of age, he was allowed to be one of the finest gentlemen and finest scholars of his time. His learning is proved by notes which are still extant in his handwriting on books in almost every department of literature. He spoke French like a gentleman of Louis' bedchamber, and Italian like a citizen of Florence." "He was early called the King of Hearts, and never, through a long eventful and chequered life, lost his right to that name."

In the year 1700 the Duke made a settlement of his estate, by which they were limited in succession to his cousin George, whose elder brother Gilbert afterwards succeeded as 13th earl, but being a Jesuit

priest was excluded from the settlement; then to another cousin John Talbot of Longford; then to Sir John Talbot of Lacock, and ultimately to his own right heirs. In 1712 the duke made his will, by which other estates were limited to the uses of this settlement. John Talbot of Longford survived the duke many years, but Sir John of Lacock died without issue male surviving him in the year 1713. At the period, then, of the duke's death the only members of the family alive were:—Gilbert, the 13th earl; George his brother, who married Mary Fitzwilliam; John Talbot of Longford, who was married, but had no children—all these being descendants of John, 10th earl, and also the family of Sherrington Talbot of Rudge, descended, as we have stated, from Sir John Talbot of Albrighton by his second marriage, and represented by Sir John of Lacock until his death in 1713. It would appear that the Duke of Shrewsbury was ignorant who, after Sir John of Lacock, was the next heir to the title, and it may very well be that until the day of his death, he remained in ignorance of the true state of the Lacock family. Satisfied with having placed the head of that family in the entail of his estates, he probably made no further serious inquiry on the subject. At this time the Bishop of Durham, eldest son of William Talbot of Whittington, who was ninth son of Sherrington Talbot of Rudge, claimed to be the next heir to the title after John Talbot of Longford; and upon the marriage of George Talbot, above-mentioned, with Mary, sister to Viscount Fitzwilliam, it was agreed that a private Act of Parliament should be applied for, settling all



HOG HUNTING IN INDIA.—(FROM A SKETCH BY MAJOR LEVISON.)

the estates of the late Duke of Shrewsbury to descend with the title, and naming the Bishop with his eldest son, Charles, afterwards Lord Chancellor, as next in succession after John Talbot of Longford. The House of Lords, however, were not satisfied that the Bishop was then the next recognised heir, and declining to investigate the pedigree farther, passed the Act settling the estate generally on the heirs to the title of Earl of Shrewsbury, but leaving untouched the recital, which had been inserted in the marriage settlement of George, that after the issue of John of Longford, the title would "by course of descent and *per formam doni* descend and come to" the Bishop and his heirs.

From the evidence produced upon the late occasion, there can be no doubt that at the date of the Duke's settlement in 1700 the Bishop was not the next heir, a nephew of Sir John of Lacock—Captain Gilbert Talbot—being then alive, and also Sherrington, the son of Thomas Talbot, the brother whose name had been omitted in the pedigree in "Benefactors." We have already stated that this Gilbert died in 1708, leaving an only daughter, and that Sherrington, the son of Thomas, had a son, who died an infant in 1703; but unless this Thomas had other sons, of whom no trace has been found from that date until the present time, or unless issue remained of some other of the sons of Sherrington of Rudge, the Bishop had in truth become the next heir at the time of the application to Parliament in 1718. It is strange, however, that notwithstanding this recital in the marriage settlement

and the Act of Parliament, it should now have been contended that the Bishop was no relation of the family, and that the ignorance of the Duke as to who was the next heir after Sir John of Lacock should have been magnified into a doubt as to whether the Bishop was his kinsman at all.

It is certainly a singular feature of the case, that the nearer we approach our own times, the more difficult the regular proof of the facts appears to be. No register of the marriage of William of Whittington could be found, nor even of the first marriage of the Bishop himself. And the first mention of the Bishop's name in any register produced, described him as the son of William Talbot of Ditchfield. The proof, however, deduced from wills, settlements in the Lacock family, a monumental inscription, and the recognition of the relationship by other members of the family, leave no doubt that the Bishop was the son of William of Whittington; and, throughout the whole of the proceedings before the House in 1718-19, although the facts must have been within the knowledge of three living parties, two of whom—the Bishop of Exeter and the Earl of Sussex—testified to them, no question appears to have been made as to the Bishop being the son of William of Whittington, or as to Charles Talbot, who was himself a party before the house, being the legitimate son of the Bishop. The counsel for those who then opposed the passing of the bill were asked whether they admitted the Bishop's title—that is,

whether he was the next heir after John of Longford? and they answered that they neither admitted nor denied it, but no doubt was suggested that he was not one of the family. Charles Talbot, the eldest son of the Bishop, was afterwards created Lord Talbot, Baron of Hensol, and held the great seal of England from 1733 till his death in 1736. From him the descent of the present earl was not disputed, and the committee only required the formal proof that each of five peers in the succession had taken their seats in the house. Thus was completed the long chain which connects John, the "Great" Earl, through twelve descents, with the present peer, now eighteenth Earl of Shrewsbury.

COMMISSION OF LUNACY ON SIR HENRY MEUX.

A COMMISSION of Lunacy has made a lengthened inquiry into the state of mind of Sir Henry Meux. Mr. Montague Chambers, Mr. Bovill, and Mr. Bodkin, appeared in support of the petition; Mr. Montagu Smith and Mr. Quain were counsel on behalf of Lady Smith, the sister of Sir Henry Meux; and the Attorney-General, Mr. Edwin James, Mr. Wilde, and Mr. Hawkins, were counsel for Lady Meux.

It appears that, on the death of his father, in 1841, Sir Henry became possessed of great wealth and a large capital embarked in the brewery. He had three sisters, Lady Malden, Mrs. Arabin, and Lady Bowyer Smith. In 1855, he married a daughter of Lord Ernest

Bruce, a girl of nineteen, and soon after this, the petitioners allege, his manner became noticeably altered, and it was found that disease of the brain, attended by slow paralysis, had set in. Sir Henry, who was fond of sporting, went to the seat of a friend in Cambridgeshire, for the sake of shooting. There, as well as subsequently at his own seat at Theobald's Park, Hertfordshire, it was observed that he shot in a strange and random way—so much so, indeed, that he wounded five or six persons with whom he went out, though he appeared to be quite unconscious of doing so. At the general election last year, Sir Henry, who had represented Hertfordshire for ten years, was greatly excited; became subject to delusions; and subsequently sunk into a state of utter imbecility.

Now, when Sir Henry succeeded to the baronetcy, he had a fortune of £200,000, which is now increased to between £500,000 and £600,000. The chief source of income is the brewery, Sir Henry being entitled to the great bulk of that property. The petition was made, of course, in reference to the disposal of this property. All Sir Henry's sisters—Lady Malden, Mrs. Arabin, and Lady Bowyer Smith—were well provided for under their father's will, which apportioned them £20,000 each. Moreover, Sir Henry Meux appointed Mr. Arabin to attend at the brewery, assigning to him first a sum of £500 a year, and afterwards increasing it to £1,300 a year, which he now enjoys, and on the 27th of March, 1857, Sir Henry settled £18,000 upon Lady Smith. Lady Meux's jointure was £3,000; and by Sir Henry's first will, if there had been no children, his sisters would have got one-half his property, Lady Meux the other. On the birth of his child in November 1857, he made a codicil to his will, providing that if his son, Henry Bruce Meux, should not survive him, and there should be no other son, then his property should be equally divided among his daughters, if any; but if there should be only one daughter, then it should go to her and her heirs, subject to certain legacies; but should there be no legitimate children by his wife, then he left the whole of his fortune, land, plate, jewels, pictures, absolutely to his wife. He also directed that his wife and her father, Lord Ernest Bruce, should be the guardians of his child, and he wished Lord Ernest Bruce to represent him at the brewery, for which he was to receive £2,000 a year, on Mr. Arabin remaining in his position.

This codicil was executed on the 3rd of July, and the question before the Commission was, whether Sir Henry Meux was at that time sane—a question which, it will be seen, largely affected the petitioners. Evidence was called on both sides, the witnesses generally agreeing that Sir Henry's intellect was much impaired in August, when he went to Scotland, though their testimony as to his sanity in July was very conflicting. Many of the witnesses were physicians, who differed as much as physicians generally differ, as to the nature of Sir Henry's malady; though the general inference is, that it was brought on by the pleasures of the table. The decision was not given when we went to press.

HOG HUNTING IN INDIA.

BEFORE the Indian revolt had given our officers in India more difficult if not nobler game, the restless spirits of our army were fain to expend their military ardour on the hunting of tigers and the sticking of pigs. The former sport was of course the more honourable, but then the latter was much the safer, and if the one was exciting, the other was amusing in an equal degree. "Pig-sticking," therefore (so is hog-hunting called), was a favourite pastime in the Indian army; and we hope the day will soon again arrive when gallant young ensigns and tough majors may peacefully course the pig through those jungles where now they chase sepoys.

We need not describe in any detail the hunting of hogs, for its practice is sufficiently exhibited in the accompanying engraving. Here are the natives, who, armed with spears, beat up the game; there is the game, more savage than succulent, driven from his native woods, and regarding with his little fierce red eyes the manner in which he is about to be penetrated by the bamboo-shafted lance of a British officer. Alas, poor pig! Seven British officers, and seven tough spears! Who can withstand the arms of England?

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

"LUISA MILLER," at Her Majesty's Theatre, continues to be well played; but the public seem, at the same time, to persist in not being very well pleased with it. In the execution the most remarkable thing is the improvement that has been effected by Signor Bonetti in the once unruly, and—as we thought—irremediably noisy band. All signs of anarchy and tumult have now disappeared; but while according all due praise to the conductor for his exertions in the cause of (instrumental) order—to borrow a Napoleonism—we think we ought, at the same time, to call his attention to the alarming condition of the chorus. We should say that "the hydra of revolt occasionally rears its crest," but that the limited number of the insurgent body renders the figure inapplicable. Certainly, it is far from exhibiting the same discipline as the orchestra.

Contradictory opinions are expressed as to the music of "Luisa Miller;" but the favourite estimate appears to be that it is unmitigated rubbish from beginning to end, with the exception of the *Quando le sere*, sung so charmingly by Giuglini. Every paper, with the exception of two or three of those amiable journals that are determined to be delighted with anything Mr. Lumley, or, indeed, anyone else, produces, speaks ill of this unfortunate work; and here the writers, as it appears to us, fall into the very error with which M. Verdi himself is frequently reproached—exaggeration, violence, love of extreme effects, &c. They tell us that everything is bad except the air for the tenor, and that that is beautiful. The fact is, "Luisa Miller" contains several admirably-written *morceaux*, possessing not even a trace of the faults which our critics make a point of discovering in everything that proceeds from M. Verdi's pen. We may instance, in particular, the chorus (without accompaniment) of huntsmen, and the quartet—also unaccompanied, except in so far that the brilliant passages for the soprano are accompanied by the other voices. Madame Albini's cavatina does not belong to the opera, but it may fairly be placed to its account, inasmuch as it stands in lieu of a very melodious duet for the contralto and tenor, which, sung by Albini and Giuglini, would have been one of the most successful pieces in the performance.

Feeling charitably disposed last week, we said nothing about Signor Benevanto, but as we have since then seen it stated that he plays the part of Old Miller to perfection, we feel called upon to explain that his representation of the character is one of the most ludicrous things that can be conceived. In the more affecting scenes, or rather in those that would have been affecting if the librettist had only known how to prepare them, Signor Benevanto indulges in all the attitudes and gestures of a practised actor of burlesque. In the duet with Mlle. Piccolomini, in which the father and daughter announce their intention of travelling over the world in the capacity of mendicants, he is indeed laughable, but here he is assisted materially by the composer, who, by wishing to express too much, has gone beyond the pathetic and reached the grotesque; nevertheless, the duet possesses some merit, and the *andante* movement for Luisa, with which the duet opens, or which immediately precedes it, is a pleasing and graceful melody. Here, again, we have an air that certainly is not entitled to any of those epithets (such as "violent," "exaggerated," &c.), which it is usual to apply to M. Verdi's compositions.

"Luisa Miller" was the opera selected by Mlle. Piccolomini for her benefit. We think her choice was a good one, for she certainly acts the part of the heroine with more genuine tenderness and pathos than we remember to have seen her exhibit even in the most successful of her other characters. Her Traviata was undoubtedly a very dramatic representation, but it was disfigured by some great defects, such as that eternal simpering and sign-making at the respectable British public, which, as a member of that body, we have occasionally felt it our duty to protest against. In "Luisa Miller," however, Mlle. Piccolomini is thoroughly natural, and she abstains throughout the piece in a most laudable manner from taking the audience into her confidence.

"Fra Diavolo" is still the semi-novelty at the Royal Italian Opera. It is indebted for its success to the charming singing, and equally charming appearance, of Madame Bosio; in a far less degree, to the humorous performance of Signor Ronconi (as the English lord); and, to some extent, to the meritorious manner in which the minor parts are performed. However, Madame Bosio's Zerlina is what sensible people go to see. Without her, who would care about "Fra Diavolo" during this tropical weather? But with her, the mercury may boil in the thermometer, and still there will be good audiences. Signor Gardoni plays the part of the brigand as well as he can. He is the most honest-looking brigand we ever saw. We should no more expect such a "Fra Diavolo" to rob a travelling carriage, than to sing six consecutive notes in the same voice. But he is very conscientious—both as a singer and as a brigand. Personally, Signor Gardoni has too many good qualities to look the part; and, vocally, he has too few to sing it. He is very careful, very painstaking, but very weak. This singer is sometimes praised for the "read-like" quality of his voice, but if his organ bears any resemblance at all to a read, it is certainly to a broken one. However, Mario cannot appear in every opera that is produced. Still it would be better for the management if he sang a little oftener, for Gardoni has not the strength nor Neri-Baraldi the finish to replace him in any one of his roles. We must at the same time mention that Neri-Baraldi is making considerable progress, and that his Gennaro in "Lucrezia Borgia" is now a very commendable performance. Is it not very kind—and also slightly lazy—of Signor Mario to relinquish this, one of his best characters, to the rising tenor of the establishment? This great tenor, who is to all the other tenors what Saul was to the Israelites—taller by a head—has absolutely persuaded the senescent portion of the public that he is getting old, whereas he has only just acquired his full strength and power. Many of his audience, and some of his critics, are growing old, and they fancy the tenor who has been the tenor for so many years in London is doing the same, the delusion being encouraged from motives of laziness, excusable only during this hot weather, by the deceitful vocalist himself. We are convinced, for our own part, that Signor Mario never sang better than during the present season in the "Huguenots."

We have nothing to say about the "Barber of Seville," as represented at the Royal Italian Opera, except that it is acted and sung to perfection by Bosio, Mario, and Ronconi. We have spoken of this wonderful "cast" on more than one occasion, and we have now to call particular attention to another—that of the same opera, as played at Drury Lane.

Drury Lane is the third of the three Italian operas as regards general merit. Nevertheless, it now possesses the greatest singer in the world—Madame Viardot-Garcia. This lady, the most accomplished artist, whether as a vocalist, an actress, or a musician, on the operatic stage, appeared on Tuesday last in the part of Rosina, in the "Barber of Seville," and enchanted the audience (the majority of whom had, in all probability, never heard her before) by the really magical qualities of her voice and manner. Madame Viardot is pre-eminently a singer of genius, and sings naturally from the fulness of her heart. All the cultivation she has bestowed on her style, has merely served to perfect it, instead of creating it, as with most vocalists; and it is impossible, as we listen to her, not to feel that, left entirely to herself and to nature, Madame Viardot would still have been one of the greatest singers the world has ever produced. Those who wish to hear such music as they can hear from the lips of this artist alone—and such as no one else, we imagine, would think of attempting—should take care not to miss the Spanish airs which she introduces into the music-lesson scene in the second act (at Drury Lane the third) of the "Barber." She accompanies herself on the piano, and sings her two romances (for the first is, of course, encoired, upon which a second is substituted for it) with an amount of playfulness, passion, and, above all, character, that belongs entirely to her, and which even she has, as it appears to us, never exhibited before.

Septics as to the justness and value of musical criticism (which musical critics themselves are apt to look upon almost as an exact science) will be fortified in their views by reading the different, and, indeed, entirely opposite, opinions expressed by the best daily and weekly journals as to the merit of Rubinstein, the Russian pianist. Of his success, both at the Philharmonic concerts and at those of the Musical Union, there cannot be a doubt; indeed, his success in every city of Europe where he has appeared is a well-known fact. But, reputation apart, a question is now raised as to whether this great pianist can play the piano—for it amounts to that. According to one class of authorities, he is the most brilliant, expressive, poetical pianist, that has ever been heard. According to another, he is simply a rapid player who habitually plays the wrong notes. Mr. Rubinstein (we can't call him Monsieur, for he is not a Frenchman; nor Herr, for he is not a German; nor Signor nor Senor, for he is neither an Italian nor a Spaniard; and "Gospadin," the proper word, is not understood) is to play at Mr. Benedict's concert at Her Majesty's Theatre, on Monday next. Those of our readers who are anxious to hear this musical phenomenon and judge for themselves (no bad plan, after all) will now have an opportunity of doing so for about half the price they would have to pay for that privilege at the Philharmonic concerts.

CHINESE REPORT ON THE TAKING OF CANTON.—The Chinese officials, reporting the fall of Canton, state that the English and French barbarians sneaked into the city, scaling the walls, but that the Chinese troops assembled in the streets did not molest them; that they sent respectful messages to the high mandarins, requesting terms of peace; that, after a few days, the governor was received in a very gracious way by the barbarian chiefs, and had proper honours done; that things were proceeding very peacefully in the city; and also, that the barbarians, being very angry with the Imperial Commissioner Yeh, had carried him to a fir-ship, and nobody knew what was to be done with him. It was expected that peace would be established.

A MORMON MYSTERY.—Before the Mormons abandoned Jackson county a chosen number secretly laid the foundation of the future Temple, and then carefully covering all traces of their work with earth, planted it over. The "location" of this spot is held as a church secret. The idea of shortly returning to build this temple is continually fostered by the leading saints in Utah, according to a letter from California. The Mormon agents in England have stopped emigration from Europe, during the pending difficulty, but probably will resume operations as soon as it is decided to what quarter they shall direct their steps.

CATHOLICS AND PROTESTANTS IN PRUSSIA.—Prussia possessed, in 1846, 6,041,568 Catholics, and, in 1855, 6,352,626. In 1846, there existed 7,185 Catholic churches, with 5,536 priests, and, in 1855, 7,449 churches, with 5,861 priests. In 1855, the proportion of Catholics was 1,250 to the square mile; that of Protestants, 2,071. The number of Catholics per church was 853; that of Protestants, 1,141.

DEGRADATION OF LIEUT. DE MERCY.—Lieut. de Mercy, who was convicted of murdering a brother officer, has been publicly degraded on the Place Bellecour, at Lyons. Detachments from the different regiments composing the garrison formed square. The prisoner being brought into the centre in full uniform, a sergeant stepped forward and tore off his epaulettes and the scale on the other shoulder, throwing them at the lieutenant's feet. His sword was then broken, and the pieces were also thrown at his feet. The next step was to tear off the buttons of his uniform, and the military degradation was complete. M. de Mercy was then marched off the parade ground to the prison of St. Joseph, followed by a great crowd.

THE AUSTRALIAN MAIL SERVICE.—The irregularity of the mail service under the present contract has excited the greatest discontent among the mercantile community of Melbourne; the Legislature has passed resolutions stating that the contract has been broken both in spirit and in fact, and advising that steps be taken to urge the Home Government to cancel it altogether. The emigration of the Chinese is exciting some uneasiness at Sydney.

A GOOD SUGGESTION.—A merchant of New York, a few days since, wrote to General Cass, suggesting a method by which a satisfactory arrangement could be made with Great Britain for inquiring into the nationality of suspicious vessels. He recommended that an American lieutenant should be placed on board of every British cruiser, and that a British lieutenant should be placed on board of every American cruiser, on the look-out for slavery; and that any suspected vessel should be visited, and her papers examined, by the officer whose national flag she might carry.

LAW AND CRIME.

THE leading legal event of the week has been the retirement, from the judicial bench, of Mr. Justice Coleridge. The learned judge, who may be remembered as the writer of several letters published in the life of Dr. Arnold, of whom he was a beloved pupil, had maintained his position in the Court of Queen's Bench for twenty-three years. His speech upon his retirement will long be remembered by all who heard it. The high tone of honour, which it was the chief honour of the good Dr. Arnold to inculcate among his pupils, pervaded the affecting address of the aged judge. "We can well afford to take traditional evidence," said he; "all should exist upon our personal standard of honour—that we would not say or do anything in court, which as gentlemen, we would seem to do without its walls. Sometimes, I confess, we seem, in the eyes of the world, to lean ourselves too much, perhaps, to our clients' views; but be assured that a client is dear, indeed, when an advocate is induced to go beyond his own self-respect, and beyond the duties of our own great and glorious profession. Forgive me, my friends, for these few words. I speak in the love of a profession to which I have given my best days, and which in my heart will continue to exist so long as that heart shall beat."

An important case came on for argument last week before Lord Campbell. Four or five counsel, the leaders being men of eminence in their profession, had been retained on one side and the other. When the case was called, a junior on each side rose to request an adjournment. Their "leaders," three in number, had been fortunate enough to obtain briefs in the matter of the alleged lunacy of Sir Henry Meux, and were then engaged upon the inquiry resulting therefrom. Lord Campbell firmly refused to entertain the application. If cause were to be postponed upon such grounds, the Queen's Bench, he said, might be called upon to yield to a *pre-poudre* court. It would be to the advantage of suitors, he added, that such adjournments should be discontinued, saving them the additional expense of the unnecessary attendance of solicitors and witnesses. The case was therefore proceeded with. Lord Campbell's decision was no doubt perfectly justifiable, so far as regards not only the dignity of the court, which should be by all means upheld, but also in respect of its ultimate results to suitors in general. But what a very poor consolation for the especially unlucky suitors in particular, who having paid considerable fees to secure the services of gentlemen of eminence, find themselves obliged to content themselves with the professional assistance of juniors, of whom no more need be said, than that had the solicitors imagined them equal to the task of conducting the case, the leaders would, in no kind of probability, have received fees and briefs. It is evident, that in such cases as this (in which, be it understood, the gentlemen of eminence have a rule of not returning their fees), the client, and the client alone, is made the sacrifice to the dignity of the court and the advantage of his successive litigants. Surely one might think one of the first and most obvious results of that honour—in which, according to Mr. Justice Coleridge, the bar should exist—might be that no gentleman should receive money to perform work, which either he does not intend to perform, or which cannot, by any possibility, be performed, as involving his being in two places at once. And yet it is well known that the etiquette of the bar permits fees to be taken, and kept, under such circumstances. Not unfrequently, moreover—we speak now without reference to the particular case just mentioned, in which the juniors may have had only that opportunity so longed for by most juniors, of "coming out" and exhibiting extraordinary legal acumen and talent previously unsuspected by the world—the learned gentleman whose reputation procures him a brief in some important cause, finds it to be to his advantage to be elsewhere, and to hand over his papers to a junior, not selected by the client, but by himself. And when the anxious plaintiff or defendant, after wildly scanning the noses and whiskers under every wig in court, hears his case called on, he staggers in dismay upon beholding an unknown platter-faced gentleman in a misfit of soiled horsehair rising to exclaim, "My lord, I hold a brief in this case in the absence of Mr. Primus." It is not long before the wretched client knows that the wig no more makes the lawyer than the cowl the monk. Mr. Briefless asks questions which are objected to, and varies them only to provoke the titters of the Bar. He mixes up the names of parties and of witnesses, and confounds dates, places, and incidents into one utterly incomprehensible hash. He mistakes the law, and wastes the public time, until my lord can scarcely maintain his judicial suavity, and continue that bland courtesy with which judges, without reproving, occasionally correct, the errors of their less learned forensic brethren. His "learned friends," after indulging their scarce concealed mirth, are seen good-naturedly to come to the rescue with whispered counsels, and the solicitor in the cause is remarked visibly to lose his habitual self-possession. At length the cause is lost, and where is the remedy of the unhappy client? Not against his solicitor, certainly, who has done his best, and retained the first man at the bar for the required line. Not against Mr. Briefless, who so kindly undertook to hold the brief at a few minutes' notice for his learned and certainly more able friend; and not against Mr. Primus, Q.C., who might, for all the responsibility he would have incurred in the matter, have pitched the brief into the Thames. All the hope, consolation, and satisfaction of the unfortunate client, will be that of having, after an adverse verdict and the payment of costs on both sides, contributed to support the dignity of the Court of Queen's Bench, and of having assisted, as far as in him lay, to save expense to future suitors—generally. As the bar is ambitious of maintaining and exalting the personal honour of its members, let this be one of the chief anomalies against which a decided stand may be made at once and for ever. Any individual counsel who assists in its reformation, will certainly obtain the gratification not only of his own conscience, but of increased patronage from that respectable body of solicitors to whom certain fidelity is no less a recommendation in an advocate, than consummate learning blended with admirable talent.

In the matter of the Tiverton Burial Board, that body returned, in answer to a mandamus, that they had set apart a portion of the burial-ground in a fit and proper state for consecration. To this a demurrer was entered, on the ground that the bishop had insisted upon a wall, exactly four feet high, between the portion intended to be consecrated and that allotted to Dissenters. The wall built as a line of demarcation was only twelve inches high, which of course made a difference of exactly three feet perpendicular of brickwork between that which existed, and that which ought to exist, for the perfect beatific repose of the Anglican dead. By what curious combination of building statistics with Christianity the reverend bishop arrived at this exactitude in his brick-and-mortar calculations, was not pretended to be set forth. This omission existing, left the matter perfectly open to the judgment of Lord Campbell, who failed to recognise the result at which the bishop had arrived by inexpressible arithmetic. So his Lordship delivered the decision of the Court that the twelve-inch fence was sufficient for the required purpose. Should any other burial board, presuming upon the decision thus far extending, build for a similar purpose a wall only eleven and a half inches in height, the question may be again presented. Certainly, one would like to know the exact quantity of brickwork beyond which consecration (*quantum valeat*) cannot extend its hallowing influence.

A HANGMAN'S BILL.—A Dutch journal recounts that, at the beginning of the last century, the city of Amsterdam was in the habit of employing the Hangmen executioners; and that, with a view to save travelling expenses, it was usually contrived that a good many executions should be fixed for the same day. The following bill, showing the amount earned by this fortunate and painstaking functionary on December 17, 1712, is preserved in the archives at Amsterdam:—To beheading a man, 15d.; to hanging another, 6d.; to breaking a man on the wheel, 9 blows, at 3d. the blow, 27d.; to hanging the same individual afterwards, 6d.; to hanging two others with swords stuck in their heads, 18d.; to hanging four more, at 6d. each, 24d.; to hanging a youth, 3d.; to hanging two men and plucking their breasts, 12d.; to flogging twenty-four persons, at 3d. each, 72d.; to flogging three others, and fixing swords on their heads, 9d.; to putting a man in the pillory, 6d.; to branding a man in the back, 6d.; sundries, 21d.; for my assistants, 12d.; for ropes, &c., 27d.

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POLICE.

A RATCLIFF HIGHWAYMAN.—John Thompson, aged 22, a well-known thief, was brought before Mr. Yardley charged with stealing 17s. in silver, and a pocket-book the property of Richard Wilson.

On the 5th of June the prosecutor was passing along Ratcliff Highway, when he was assailed by the prisoner and another man. One of them pinioned his arms, and the other rifled his pockets, and took from one a pocket-book which contained some memoranda, and from the other seventeen shillings in silver. The prosecutor struggled with the thieves, who used him with considerable violence, threw him upon the ground, and ran away. On Sunday evening the prosecutor met the prisoner, a short distance from the place where the robbery was committed, and gave him into custody.

Mr. Wilson identified the prisoner as the man who rifled his pockets while his confederate held him; and a police-constable said the prisoner had been imprisoned for nine months upon a conviction by a jury for a similar robbery; and there were several summary convictions recorded against him.

Mr. Yardley committed him for trial at the sessions.

STATE OF THE THAMES.—The Lord Mayor, in handing to the reporter a letter addressed to him on this subject, said he had before heard repeated complaints of a similar character, and having recently passed once or twice between London and Westminster Bridges in a steamboat, he had found the stretch of the river to be intolerable. The letter was as follows:—

"My Lord—What is to be done? The stretch from the Thames yesterday, even at high-water, exceeded anything I have ever seen or noticed before. On leaving the Adelphi Pier stairs, I was seized with vomiting, and I really expected some injury would accrue to me. Can nothing be done (excepting speeches in Parliament) on the subject of this fearful 'sewer evil'? When some dreadful calamity shall brood its pestilential fumes over the great Metropolis, then shall we mourn the destructive effects of our culpable negligence.—I am, my Lord, your humble servant,

"ONE OF THE PEOPLE."

CONVICTION FOR SELLING STALE FISH.—William Leman, an itinerant vendor of fish, was charged with having exposed for sale a quantity of fish of different kinds, in such a state as to be unfit for human food.

After the examination of the inspector in support of the charge,

Dr. Thompson, a medical officer, gave evidence that the fish was in such a bad condition that any person partaking thereof might have been injured. The magistrate inflicted upon the defendant a penalty of 10s. and costs, and gave him to understand that if charged again with a like offence, he would be more severely dealt with.

ATTEMPTED PARRICIDE.—Frederick Noble, a respectable young man, seventeen years of age, was charged before Mr. D'Eyncourt with having feloniously wounded his mother with a carving knife, with intent to do him grievous bodily harm.

A young man named William Noble, employed at an engineering factory in Ann Street, Stepney, stated that at two o'clock that day the prisoner called at the premises of his own father, who also worked there. After conversing with his father, he went to his room, and while he was sitting there, he heard an exclamation from the injured man, "God, my son has stabbed me." Witness hurried back and caught hold of the father as he was falling off the stool, with blood streaming down his back from a wound between his shoulders. At the same moment he saw the prisoner running rapidly out of the room with a large knife in his hand, and after directing one of his fellow-workmen to follow him, he obtained further assistance and removed his uncle home, where he now remained under the care of a surgeon.

This evidence having been corroborated, the father stated that prisoner voluntarily admitted that he had certainly done so, under feelings of strong excitement, occasioned by his cruel treatment to his mother, whom he had deserted for several years until very lately, when he returned from America with the intention of depriving her of the little property she had obtained in his absence.

The officer here produced a large carving knife, the point and handle of which were stained with blood. The prisoner, who exhibited extreme depression, was remanded for a week.

A SLIGHT MISTAKE.—Louisa George, nineteen, of 10, Frances Street, York Road, was charged with stealing a pocket-handkerchief, the property of Mr. H. W. Rogers, member of the Royal Academy.

Inspector Park said the prisoner was charged with stealing a pocket-handkerchief, but the prosecutor had since found the handkerchief.

Mr. Bingham said he would advise the prosecutor to stop out and arrange the matter.

The parties then left the court, and when in the jailer's room the prosecutor offered the accused a small sum which she declined to take; but ultimately, at the suggestion of the jailer, increased it to £2.

USEFUL CAUTION.—Mary Acton, a respectable married female, was charged with plucking a quantity of flowers in Hyde Park.

A basket full of flowers was produced by the park-keeper.

Mr. Bingham said, if each of the 10,000 persons who visited the park daily, only took away a tithe of what the accused had taken, there would be no flowers left for others who had no other opportunity of seeing them.

Fined 10s.

THE ORGAN-GRINDING NUISANCE.—Buonosardi Stefano, a swarthy Savoyard, was charged with having persisted in playing an organ before the house of Dr. Arthur Hisham, a physician, at Mile End, after he had been ordered away.

Complainant stated that, for a long time past, he had been greatly annoyed by the continuous visitations of organ men, and other so-called musicians, who infest this neighbourhood from nine o'clock in the morning till eleven at night. The particular complaints to which his professional attention was chiefly directed were those of the heart, the diagnosis of which it was obviously impossible to arrive at with proper precision, unless the patient was kept at the time in perfect quietness. On the previous day, while applying the stethoscope in the case of a lady who was in a distressing and aggravated stage of that disease, he was suddenly disturbed by a startling burst of discordant sounds from a large, deep-toned organ, combined with the shrill accompaniment of Pandean pipes. Finding that the intolerable discord was produced by the prisoner, who was grinding and blowing away immediately under the window, witness sent the servant to remove him, but as he kept on with increased vigour, and treated the request with dogged indifference, he was at length given into custody.

The defendant, in broken English, assured the magistrate, with apparent simplicity, that having been only a short time here, he was not aware before that music was prohibited in this country, and that he had been encouraged in the delusion that it was at least tolerated by the liberality of some of the complainant's neighbours, who had always handed him pence instead of handing him over to a policeman.

The complainant intimated that he believed this, and had no desire to press against the prisoner, if he would only promise in future to keep himself and his instruments as far apart from him as possible.

The prisoner earnestly gave the undertaking, and was discharged with a caution.

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

During nearly the whole of the week, the market for home securities has been extremely quiet, and the price of the various securities has been reported to be very low. The market for foreign securities has been more active, and the price of the various securities has been reported to be very high.

There has been a slight improvement in the demand for money, but we have not advanced much in the rate of discount. The rate of discount has been 2½ per cent. for the week, and the rate of interest has been 4 per cent. for the week.

Another instalment of 15 per cent. has fallen due upon the India Loan, and the East India Railway Company has paid to the Directors of the East India Company £25,000, on account of the India Loan. These payments, which have been very large, will tend to increase the general money market, and place the company in possession of ample funds to meet present home claims upon them.

The Directors of the Bank of France have reduced the rate of discount from 4 to 3½ per cent., and the return for the India Loan has been reduced from 4 to 3½ per cent. The rate of interest has been 4 per cent. for the week, and the rate of discount has been 2½ per cent. for the week.

The 3 per cent. consols, ex div., for the amount have been sold at 94½, the 4 per cent. consols at 95½, the 5 per cent. consols at 96½, the 6 per cent. consols at 97½, the 7 per cent. consols at 98½, the 8 per cent. consols at 99½, the 9 per cent. consols at 100½, the 10 per cent. consols at 101½, the 11 per cent. consols at 102½, the 12 per cent. consols at 103½, the 13 per cent. consols at 104½, the 14 per cent. consols at 105½, the 15 per cent. consols at 106½, the 16 per cent. consols at 107½, the 17 per cent. consols at 108½, the 18 per cent. consols at 109½, the 19 per cent. consols at 110½, the 20 per cent. consols at 111½, the 21 per cent. consols at 112½, the 22 per cent. consols at 113½, the 23 per cent. consols at 114½, the 24 per cent. consols at 115½, the 25 per cent. consols at 116½, the 26 per cent. consols at 117½, the 27 per cent. consols at 118½, the 28 per cent. consols at 119½, the 29 per cent. consols at 120½, the 30 per cent. consols at 121½, the 31 per cent. consols at 122½, the 32 per cent. consols at 123½, the 33 per cent. consols at 124½, the 34 per cent. consols at 125½, the 35 per cent. consols at 126½, the 36 per cent. consols at 127½, the 37 per cent. consols at 128½, the 38 per cent. consols at 129½, the 39 per cent. consols at 130½, the 40 per cent. consols at 131½, the 41 per cent. consols at 132½, the 42 per cent. consols at 133½, the 43 per cent. consols at 134½, the 44 per cent. consols at 135½, the 45 per cent. consols at 136½, the 46 per cent. consols at 137½, the 47 per cent. consols at 138½, the 48 per cent. consols at 139½, the 49 per cent. consols at 140½, the 50 per cent. consols at 141½, the 51 per cent. consols at 142½, the 52 per cent. consols at 143½, the 53 per cent. consols at 144½, the 54 per cent. consols at 145½, the 55 per cent. consols at 146½, the 56 per cent. consols at 147½, the 57 per cent. consols at 148½, the 58 per cent. consols at 149½, the 59 per cent. consols at 150½, the 60 per cent. consols at 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